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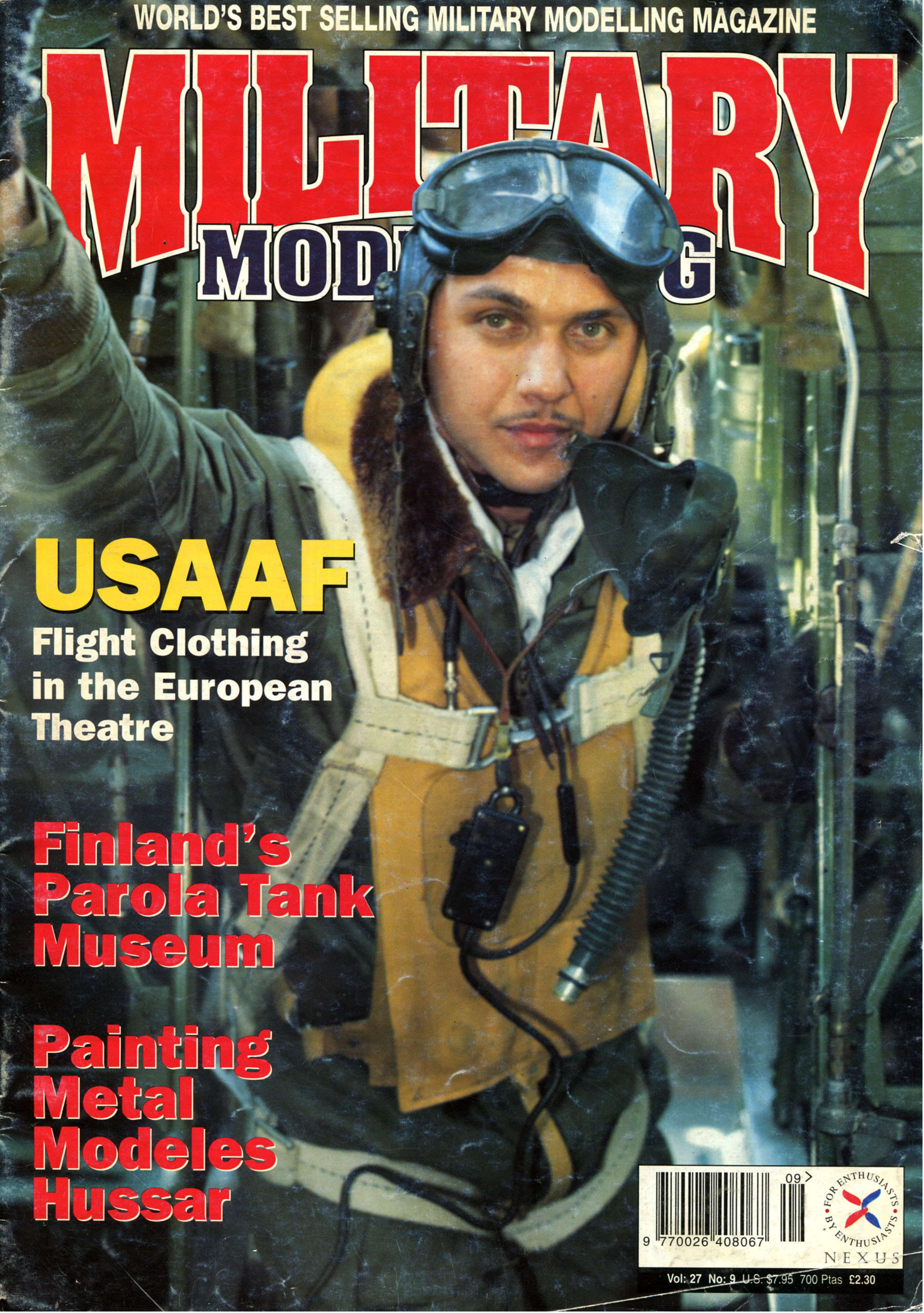

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We have supplied these books to several manufacturers of military detail sets - that speaks for itself!

You'll see examples of these superb drawings in our mail order catalogue which now incorporates sample pages from this super range of books.

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LMA2 - 'MODELS IN ACTION NO.2' - BERLIN £26.50

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The 12 dioramas contained in this book cover the period from January to May 1945, from the steamroller advance of the Red Army through Eastern Europe to the final, desperate German resistance in the streets around the Reichstag. The dioramas each focus on an actual episode from the period and presented in chronilogical order. In addition, this time the author has added a little diorama by introducing a fictional character in the form of a typical German soldier - Leutnant Helmut Schmitt. By following his story during the Third Reich's final collapse, it is hoped that the reader can gain a slightly better feel for what actually happened in that tumultuous period.

While these dioramas - by some of the top modellers in Japan - are pleasant to simply look at, it is hoped that you'll be able to find some hints and ideas for improving your own modelling skills as you admire their work, and to perhaps gain a feeling for what it might have been like to be Helmut Schmitt caught up in the midst of that "Iron Storm".

LMA1 - 'MODELS IN ACTION NO.1 - NORMANDY' - £ 24.35

Similar in format to the above, but with the theme of the Normandy invasion, with photos of Allied & German dioramas. It should serve as a valuable collection of ideas and hints for readers' own modelling with lots of inpiration!

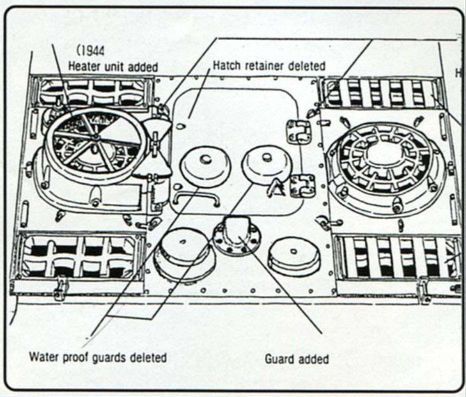
AP4 L Achtung Panzer No.4 - Panther, Jagdpanther, Brummbar £ 22.50

There are 73 black & white photographs in this book, showing vehicles in action, and close-up details. Also included are over 200 colour pictures depicting virtually every detail both inside and outside of each tank, including examples of zimmerit.

Detailed drawings show, in addition to the usual upper and lower hull features, details such as width indicator, lights, road wheels for various versions, crowbars, axes, smoke launchers, spare track brackets, track tension wrench, hatch covers and machine gun mountings for the various versions. An example of these drawings is shown here.

Plans drawn to 1:35 are included for the Pz V. A and D variants and of the Panther II and Jagdpanther.

Very detailed drawings of side skirt armour are included and the differences in exhaust details between the variants are clearly illustrated. A superb enlarged drawing of the MG42 machine gun and IR telescopic sight is included. Virtually all details are covered - running gear layout, turret details, sprockets and wheels, hatches and cooling grills.



These books really tell you how to do it!
Packed with hints, they are ideal for the novice and expert alike.

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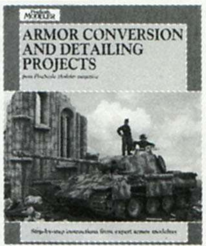

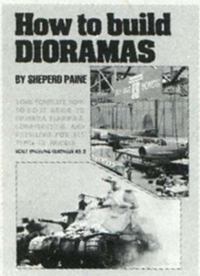

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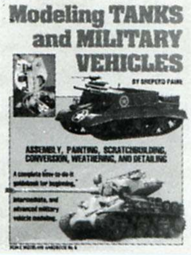
Essential reading!



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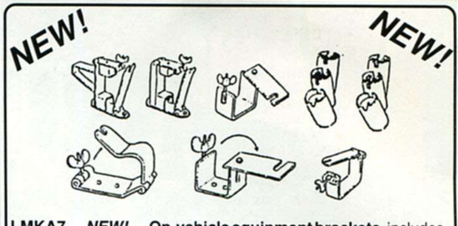

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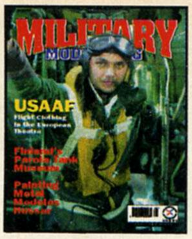

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Vol.27 No.9 1997

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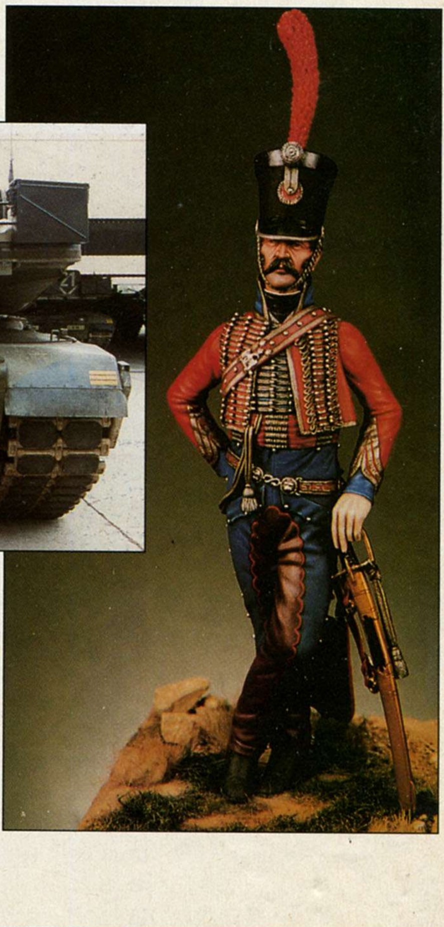
ABOVE: The American M1A1 (HA) Abrams Main Battle Tank. Take a walk around it beginning on page 16.



RIGHT: Metal Modeles' 90mm French Hussar officer painted by Phil Kessling. See page 14.

COVER: Crewing 'Mary Alice' at Duxford - What the USAAF aircrews wore in the ETO during WWII begins on page 31.
Photo: Seimon Pugh Jones.

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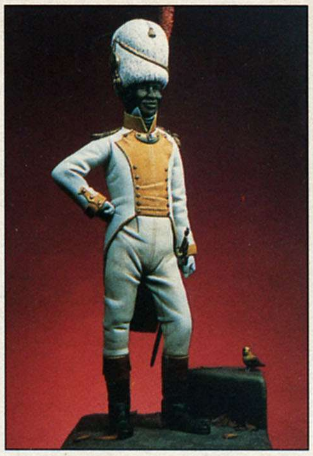

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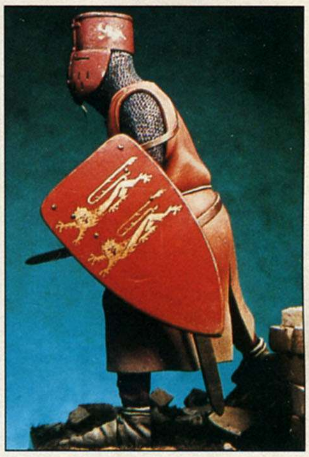

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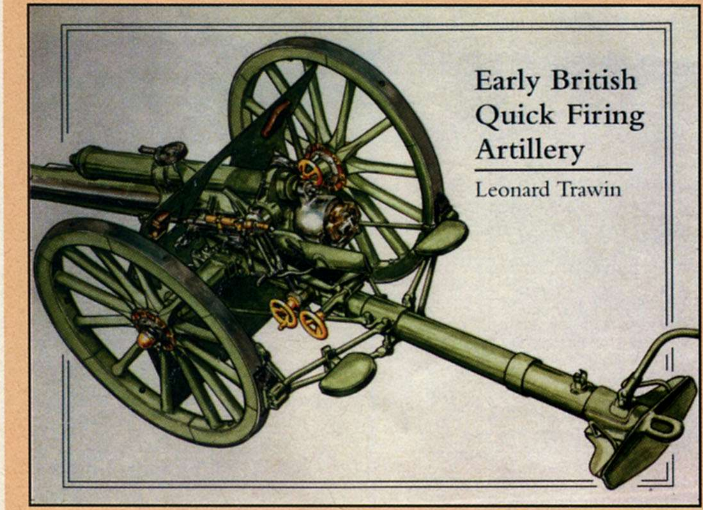

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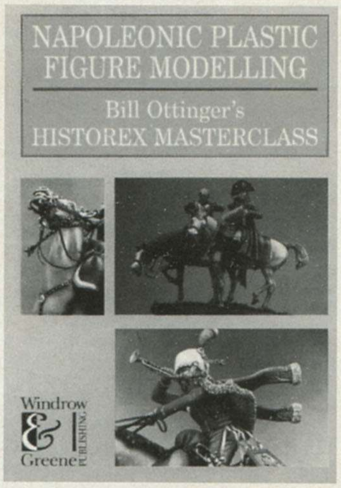

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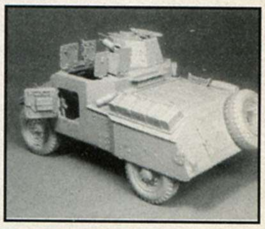

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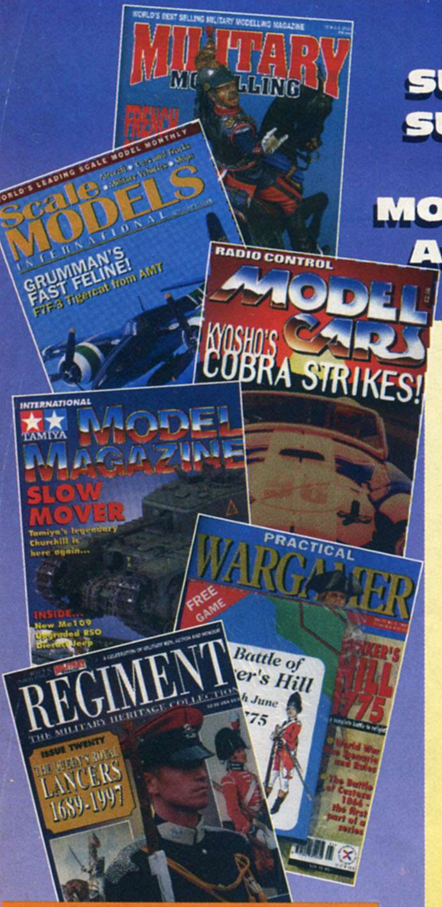
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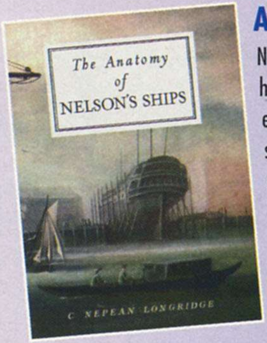
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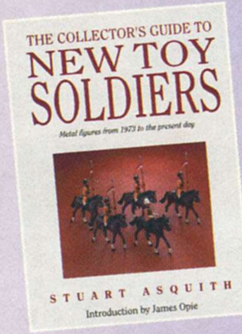
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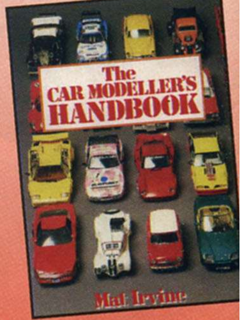
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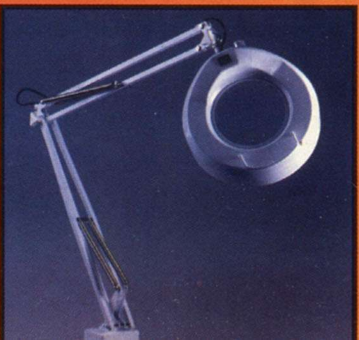

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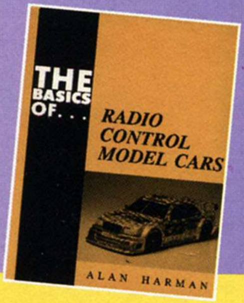

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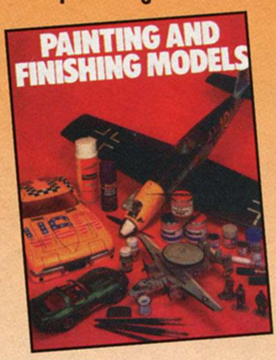

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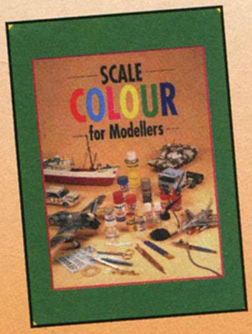

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Primarily designed to fire round shot at opposing infantry and cavalry formations, this power gun was of particular importance to the French. The rate of fire was about 2 rounds per minute with an effective range of aprox 1100 yards. The gun was served by a six man crew and was drawn by a team of six horses.

French 6" Howitzer, System Gribeauval

From the 1778 artillery reforms of General Gribeauval, designed to produce a more mobile gun to lob shells at a high angle at short range. It also provided close fire support to assault troops by overhead fire. The exploding shells would set light to any combustible target.

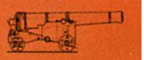
British 6 pdr Field Gun

Front/side elevation and plan view plus full model wheel construction in 3/4" to 1ft scale.

British 12 pdr Field Gun 1800-1860

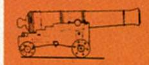
Typical of the field pieces used during Napoleonic wars. Scale 1 1/2" to 1ft.

12 pdr Ships Gun c.1780, & 68 pdr Carronade



Double plan feature with side/front elevation and plan views for both pieces.

32 pdr Ships Gun c. 1780-1805



Front/side elevations and plan view of carriage together with detailed deck instructions including breaching tackle.

This set of six plans usually retails at £19.70 UK (inc. p&p).
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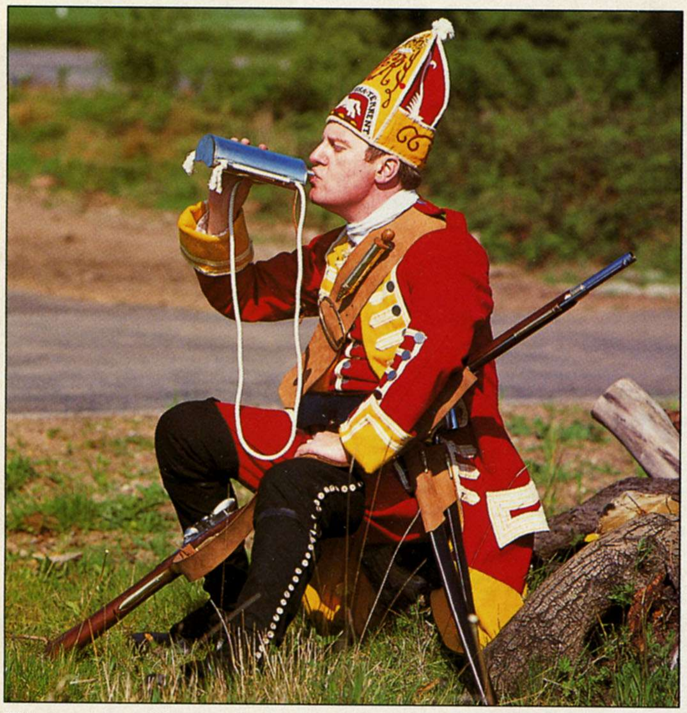
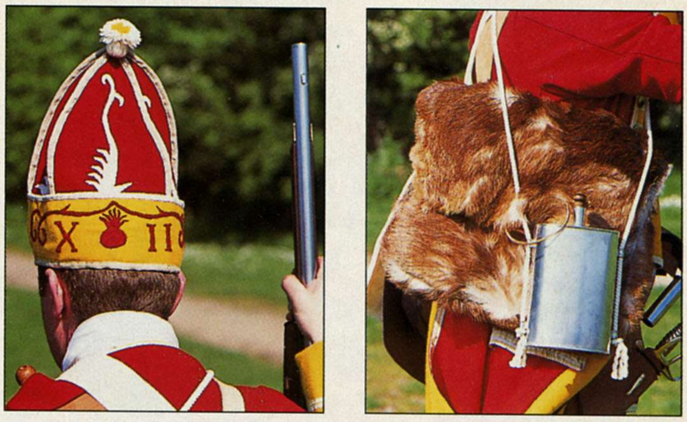


Thirsty work - taking a well-earned break. Note black 'marching gaiters' instead of the white dress gaiters usually (incorrectly) depicted for this period.



ABOVE LEFT: Rear of embroidered mitre cap bearing the regiment number XIII and grenade on flap. ABOVE RIGHT: Close up of goatskin knapsack and tin canteen. BELOW: Close up of cuff and lace detail. Note thin yellow stripe on lace and plain white metal buttons.

The King's Grenadiers c.1759

David Whitehouse is one of the first re-enactors in the UK to put together a convincing impression of a 1750s 'redcoat' for the recreated grenadier company of the 12th Regiment of Foot (Napier's). He tells how all this came about ...

In an age where wool and skilled labour were cheap and plentiful an infantryman could be kitted out relatively cheaply. His red coat could be supplied for little more than £1 and an embroidered grenadier cap produced for less than 10 shillings. It is a very different story as we approach the Millennium with mass production and man-made fabrics regarded as the norm and a heavy premium placed upon natural materials and handmade artefacts. Fellow re-enactors are staggered at the frightening cost of reproducing authentic and accurate uniforms and accoutrements for the Seven Years War period (1756-63). My impression of a 1750s British Grenadier has set me back over £2,000 - the cost of kitting out an entire company in other societies.

Inspiration for the project came from the series of illustrations produced by the Swiss artist David Morier in the 1750s. These depict a grenadier of each regiment (including the 12th Foot) dressed according to the 1751 Clothing Warrant. Morier's paintings form the backbone of information on British infantry uniforms of the period and this was supplemented by articles and publications penned by notable modem day military artists/historians such Gerry Embleton and Philip Haythornwaite. Gerry is passing a critical eye over my impression and helping with a number of minor details and finishing touches.

So how does it tot up?

Just one piece of uniform and one weapon swallow up half the total cost. The coat is hand-finished by Dawn Wood at Ages of Elegance and decorated with 20 metres of specially-woven lace. It is fortunate that the lace pattern for the 12th Foot is a simple, single yellow stripe. Dawn informs me that some of the zigzag patterns of other regiments would be almost impossible to reproduce on modern looms.

The musket shown is in fact the slightly later, Short Land Pattern with a 42-inch barrel, but I am in the process of acquiring a reproduction Long Land Pattern Brown Bess Musket with a full 46-inch barrel. Factory-made repro Long Land Patterns are a much sought-after rarity whilst handmade models are said to retail at $1,200 in the States. Other accoutrements such as the 1751 pattern hanger and tin canteen were shipped in from North America where the existence of organisations such as the Forces of Montcalm and Wolfe means that so much is now available off-the-shelf.

The leather work, brass buckles and matchcase were handcrafted by Andrew Clark of Military Metalwork and the patterns are based on items excavated from Ticonderoga and Louisbourg.

Networking with other Seven Years War re-enactors means this important, yet hitherto neglected, part of British military is at last getting the attention it deserves thanks to the exploits of the aforementioned Forces of Montcalm and Wolfe in America and Canada, plus the UK-based New France and Old England. I enjoy regular dialogue with a number of recreated Redcoat units in North America including the 40th Foot (Louisbourg Grenadiers), 50th Foot and 60th Foot. The Seven Years War is often described as the first world-wide war with the major powers of the day battling it out on all four known continents. It must only be a matter of time before living history enthusiasts and re-enactors in other countries, particularly mainland Europe, wake up to the enormous potential this offers us today.

The Suffolk connection

Considerable interest has been generated in East Anglia where the 12th Foot was at one time the East Suffolk Regiment and in 1964 became the 1st Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment. I have received letters expressing interest and encouragement from a former Colonel of the Suffolk Regiment as well as the Suffolk and Royal Anglian Regiment Old Comrades Association. The battalion or 'hat' companies of the 12th fought with distinction at Minden and this is the Royal Anglian Regiment's premier Battle Honour.

It is hoped to form a 'hat' company for anyone who doesn't measure up as a Grenadier. Less equipment is required for a hat man representing a saving of at least £250.

If you want to help me celebrate the Year of Victories in what was undoubtedly Britain's most successful war, then take the King's Shilling and become a 'Tommy Lobster' with the 12th Foot.

Contact: David Whitehouse
11 Poole Crescent
Bilston,
West Midlands
WV14 8SR
Tel: 01902 492183
E-mail: mitre@mail.on-line.co.uk
Web page:
http//www.novarltd.demon.co.uk/webpages/tkg.htm

1997 Events Diary - Confirmed Dates

28th/29th June: Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent.
18th/19th July: Stowe

▶

At rest.

Landscape Gardens, Buckingham (evening event).
9th/10th August: American Museum, Claverton Manor, Bath.
16th November: Sandwell Skirmish '97, The Gala Leisure Centre, West Bromwich

Affiliated to the Lace Wars umbrella group for mid-18th Century Re-enactors.

Photographs by Trevalan Photography, 53 Cherry Tree Avenue, Yew Tree, Walsall WS5 4JN. Tel/Fax: 01922 27703 (please credit).

Beltring '97

Beltring '97 the World's largest military vehicle event, will take place 18th to 20th July at The Whitbread Hop Farm, Beltring, Kent. For further details contact Rex Cadman, The Old Rectory, 45 Sandwich Road, Ash, Canterbury, Kent CT3 2AF or tel: 01304 813128.

Miniature World

Step inside Miniature World and you enter an enchanting and fascinating permanent exhibition of miniature scenes. This is a new tourist attraction which is open from the 2nd May until mid-October, and is situated in the High Street in the centre of Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire.

This indoor collection of over 50 different exhibits also includes miniature war scenes. One in particular is of a German tank smashing through the middle of a house with the house collapsing around it. It is an exceedingly clever and skilful piece of modelling. There are also extra-terrestrial spaceship scenes and several beautiful old galleon wooden ship models where every plank of their decks has been individually laid, as well as three excellent replicas of narrow boats and two beautifully painted gypsy caravans.

Miniature World is open every day from 10am to 5.30pm and admission is £1.75 adults, £1.50 Senior Citizens and £1 for children aged between 5 to 14 years. For further enquiries contact Michael Taylor, tel: 01451 810121 (day) or 01604 781076 (evenings).

Jorvik Model Show

Jorvik Model Show takes place on the 3rd August at Archbishop Holgate's School, Hull Road, York between 10am and 4.30pm. This will feature an open competition including junior and beginner classes, plus many traders. Admission is £1.50 adults and 50p children. For further information telephone 01904 415983 or 01653 696931.

Recreating the period 1809-1815

Due to heavy losses from disease and them dammed French, the 71st Highland Light Infantry have been transported back to good old England to find new recruits to swell their ranks. We know that by you reading this magazine you have a keen interest in things military, and that underneath thrives a budding re-enactor waiting to get out, so now is the time to do so. The 71st HLI are inviting you to come along to one of our events or drill meetings to meet us, and if you like what you see, take the King's Shilling. Interested parties should contact acting Corporal Michael Foreman, tel: 01622 763362.

The Royal Tournament

The Royal Tournament takes place from 15th to 27th July at Earl's Court, London. This year's show will open celebrating the history of the Artillery, and illustrate the power of the modern day forces. The finale will be a breathtaking daylight firework display or 'Mascleta' using rhythmic explosion and percussion.

Performances are every day at 2pm and 7.30pm (except for Sunday evenings and Monday afternoon), and ends at approximately 4.45pm and 10.15pm. Doors open at 11am and 5pm. Prices range from £5 to £25 with discounts for group bookings, senior citizens and children, except for Saturday. For bookings please telephone the box office on 0171 244 0244.

The Red Baron

The Club Storico Modellistico present 'The Red Baron', which takes place from 29th June to 6th July. Thanks to the kind permission of the officials of the 'Collection de Voiture de S.A.S. Le Prince de Monaco', it will be organised in the enchanting setting of the Principality, by Les Terrasses de Fontvieille. The exhibition opens every day from 10am. For further information please contact Mr Anfosso Ivano, Via San Rocco 21/2, 18019 Vallecrosia (IM), Italy. Telephone 0039 184 290 256 (evenings).

Gettysburg!

The American Civil War Society Ltd presents a battle re-enactment of Gettysburg on the 9th and 10th August at Weston Park, Shifnal, Shropshire. This promises to be a spectacular and colourful event with around 1,500 people on the field, plus many more non-combatants, all in period dress. Gates open from 11am each day, and displays start from 1pm. Further details from Chris Wood, tel: 01625 265226.

English Civil War Weekend

The Royal Armouries and Caliver Books present 'An English Civil War Weekend' on 12th and 13th July at the Royal Armouries, Leeds. This will feature a series of talks on various military aspects of the war. Tactics: Flags and colours; clothing; cavalry; buffcoats; the Northern Horse; Marston Moor; researching your Civil War ancestry, etc. Day or weekend tickets available from Caliver Books, 816-818 London Road, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 3NH. Tel/fax: 01702 73986.

Bugle Call '97

The British Model Soldier Society (Bristol Area Branch) presents "Bugle Call '97", which takes place on Saturday 22nd November at The Pavilion, North Parade Road, Bath. This is the largest exhibition of Military Modelling in the West of England and features model soldiers, aircraft, tanks, sci-fi models, re-enactment groups, club displays, trade stands and competitions. The show opens at 10am and closes at 4.30pm and admission is £2 adults, £1 children and senior citizens, and a family ticket (2+2) is £3.50. Further details from Peter Sturgeon on 0117 973 2067.

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NEXT ISSUE

Volume 27 No.10 will be published 11th July 1997

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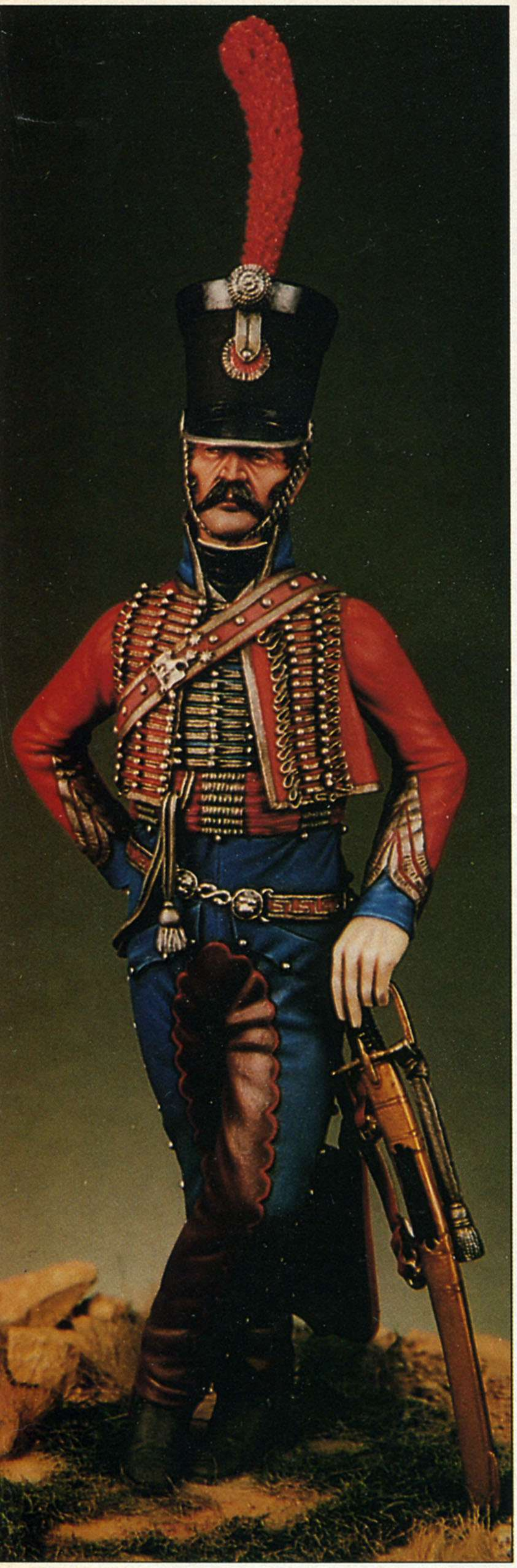
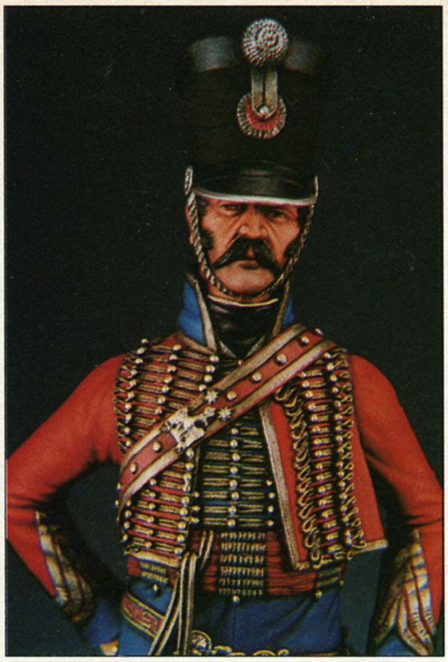
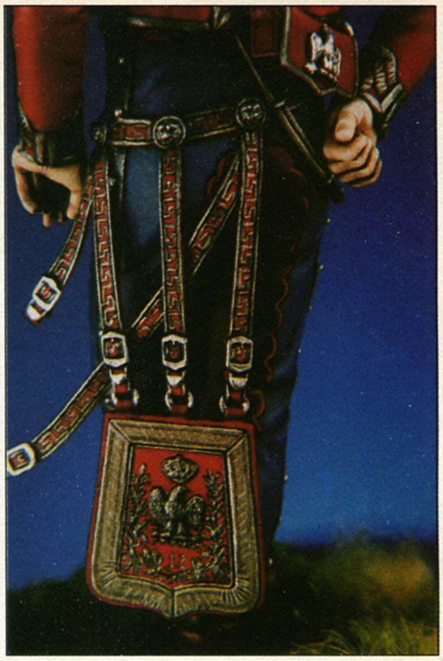






LEFT: The finished model on a scenic display base made by the author. ABOVE LEFT: Close up of the dolman, cross belt and barrel sash. Note the different types of medium used on the shako to represent the felt, leather and lace parts. ABOVE RIGHT: Sabretache and straps detail. The sword in its scabbard has yet to be added to the slings, it being much easier to paint complex models as sub-assemblies.

HUSSAR OFFICER

Phil Kessling paints Metal Modeles 90mm French hussar officer with a slight conversion from the 5th to the 12th Regiment

The mere mention of the word hussar conjures up images of a dashing and colourful light cavalryman. Their ornate and intricate uniforms have always been popular subjects for military miniaturists' paintbrushes.

Bruno Leibovitz has once again delivered a classic figure with his 90mm French Hussar Officer. Flawlessly sculpted and cast, it is based on an actual uniform in the Brunon collection. The uniform is from the 5th Regiment, but I decided to paint it in the colours of the 12th Regiment. The only modification required was to remove the sculpted '5' off of the sabretache and paint in a '12'.

Face

When I first took the head out of the box, I thought it lacked personality and expression. However, once I started painting it I discovered that I had been fooled by Monsieur Leibovitz's subtle, but exquisite, sculpting talents. The face is definitely that of a hussar, proud and confident with a slight hint of arrogance.

The base skin colour was my normal mixture of Cadmium Yellow+Alizarin Crimson+Titanium White, to which I added a little Mars Red. I used a mixture of Mars Orange+Mars Brown for the shadows; deep shadows were Brown Madder Alizarin+Purple Madder Alizarin. Highlights were the base colour+Jaune +Titanium White, more Titanium White was added for the lightest highlights. A little Blue Black was added to the base colour and painted into the 5 o'clock shadow areas.

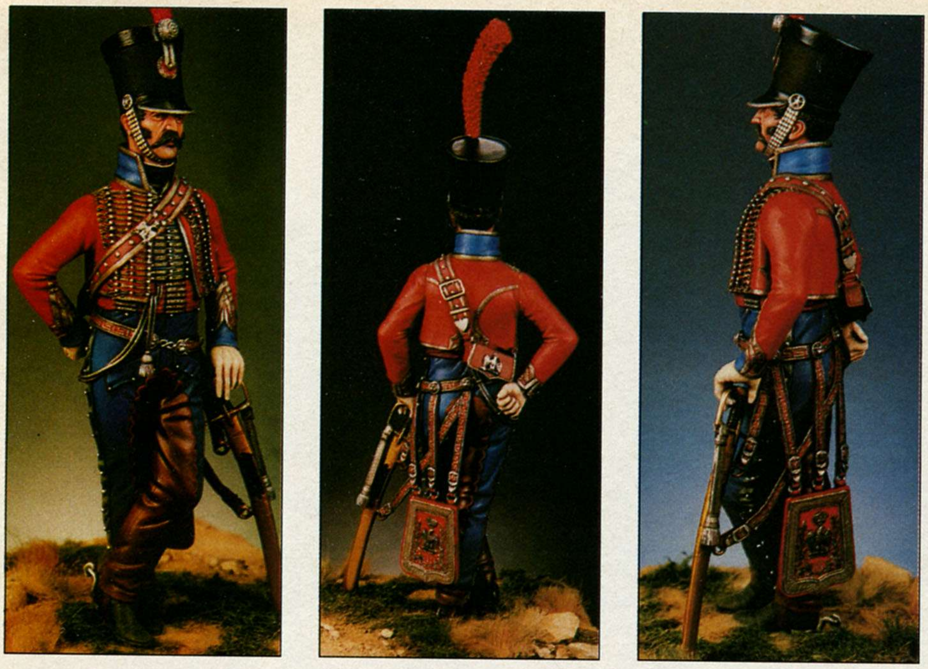
After the initial painting had dried, I did extensive work around the eyes. This involved painting in crow's feet with the deep shadow colour to which I added a little Sepia (Rembrandt artists' oil colours). I also darkened some of the other shadow areas. A few very tiny highlights were added with the light highlight colour. This technique involved putting on tiny specks of the colour and blending thoroughly into the original colours.

Trousers and waistcoat

The 12th regiment had sky blue facings and trousers. My research indicated that French Sky Blue is much darker than what I expected. Photographs of existing uniforms illustrate a very bright medium blue.

My base blue colour was a mixture of Indanthrone Blue and Mediterranean Blue, both by Daniel Smith. In my opinion, Daniel Smith (a U.S. Mail Order Company) has some of the best blue oil paints available. These colours are very opaque and dry to a consistent matt finish. For the shadows, I added more Indanthrone Blue and a dab of Titanium White; Indigo was added to this mix for the deepest shadows. Highlights were Mediterranean Blue and Titanium White, additional Titanium White was added to this mix for the lightest highlights. Since, only a small portion of the waistcoat is visible, I only used the shadow colour and the lightest highlight to paint it. I did this so it would have a slightly different appearance from the trousers.

The leather inserts on the trousers were painted with a base mixture of Mars Brown+Brown Madder. I added a couple of drops of Stand Oil to impart a slight sheen. The shadow colour was Brown Madder. For the deepest shadows, I added Mars Black and a dab of Indigo to the shadow colour. Highlights were painted with a mix of Mars Orange and Mars Brown; Titanium White was added to this mixture and used for the lightest highlights. The scalloped edging was painted in Cadmium Red Deep and shaded with Purple Madder. After this dried, I added a few selective highlights with Cadmium Red.



Examine the pictures carefully and relate them to the various detailed painting stages described in the text.

The silver lace on the trousers was painted a base colour of Greenish Umber (L) +Silver (Weber) +Pewter (Winsor & Newton). For the shadows I added Burnt Umber to this mixture. Highlights were painted with a mix of Mars Yellow+TitaniumWhite+Iridescent Silver. The light highlights were Silver+Iridescent White. I was not completely satisfied with the way this silver lace turned out. So for the rest of the figure, I did not add Pewter to the base colour or Iridescent White to the highlights. Both of these colours are very grainy and tend to break down into individual particles when blended.

Dolman

Red can be a difficult colour to paint, because it is hard to highlight. White highlights turn the overall colour 'pinkish' and yellow highlights result in a orange tint. Therefore, I typically paint my shadow colours darker and only use one highlight colour. For this figure, I used a mix of Pyrol Red (Daniel Smith) and a dab of Mars Red. The Mars Red toned down the overall brightness of the base colour and had the added benefit of causing the paint to dry more matt.

I used a shadow colour mixed from Cadmium Red Deep+Carmine+dab of Purple Madder. The deep shadows were a mix of the shadow colour with the addition of Carbazole Violet (Daniel Smith). Carbazole Violet, from Daniel Smith, is a true deep purple which dries completely matt with the addition of a tiny amount of Titanium White. I used a highlight colour of Cadmium Red+Cadmium Scarlet+Jaune Brilliant. The deepest shadows and highlights were re-applied after the initial painting had dried. For once, I was satisfied with the overall appearance of the red dolman.

Cravat

In photographs of contemporary uniforms, officers' cravats appear to be silk and have a slightly purplish tint. I decided to experiment in an attempt to convey the appearance of black silk. The base colour was Blue Black+Carbazole Violet, with Lamp Black used for the shadows. For the highlights, I used Carbazole Violet+Titanium White+Iridescent White. After this had dried, I painted in lighter highlights by adding more Titanium White +Iridescent White to the original highlight colour. The effect was very subtle, but exactly what I was hoping for.

Sword and Sabretache Straps

The sword and sabretache straps have a beautiful cast-on pattern. Typically, this pattern was sown in metallic thread on to a leather or velvet belt. The first step was to paint all of the belts a red brown colour. The colours that I used were:

Base: Mars Brown+Cadmium Red Deep.
Shaded: Base+Burnt Umber+Purple Madder.
Highlighted: Cadmium Red.
Light Highlights: Cadmium Scarlet.

After this dried, it was time for the meticulous chore of painting the pattern. I used a base colour of Silver (Weber)+Greenish Umber+dab of Burnt Umber+dab of Raw Umber. This mixture resulted in a dark greenish brown with a slight metallic sheen. It is important to use your best brush and to thin the paint to the proper consistency for this task. If the paint is too thick, it won't flow and it will be difficult to paint crisp, straight lines. Contrarily, if the paint is too thin it won't be controllable and will not cover.

The key to painting the lace is to break it down into individual components. First, I painted all the full vertical lines, then I painted all the half vertical lines. This was followed by the full horizontal lines and finally the half horizontal lines. Once this had dried, I highlighted with a mixture of Silver+Greenish Umber. The trick was to leave a very thin line of the base colour as an outline/shadow. After the highlighting had dried, I added some judiciously placed light highlights with Silver+dab of Iridescent White. These same techniques were also used on the sabretache face, dolman lace, waistcoat lace and the pouch belt lace. I varied the formulas slightly for each piece of equipment.

Buttons, Buckles and Metal Ornaments

I wanted the buttons and other metal work to stand out from the metallic lace, so I used silver printers' ink in my basecoats for these items. The buttons were all base coated with silver printers' ink+Raw Umber+Lamp Black, to which I added Liquin and a couple of drops of Cobalt Drier. Once this base coat had dried, highlights were added with silver printers' ink mixed with Liquin and Cobalt Drier. The final effect was very shiny and contrasted well with the metallic lace.

Shako

Hussar shakos were frequently covered in felt with leather strap edgings for rigidity. To achieve this effect, I painted the body of the shako in Pelikan Plaka Black+Vermillion. Pelikan Plaka is a casein based paints which dry to a totally matt finish. The leather bands were painted in the following colours:

Base: Blue Black+Mars Brown+Titanium White+Stand Oil.
Highlight: Lamp Black+Mars Brown.
Light Highlight: Highlight+dab of Mars Yellow.

I finished the shako by painting the plume with a base coat of Cel Vinyl Middle Red (Acrylic Colour). It was then given a wash of Bourdeaux (Daniel Smith)+Cadmium Red. I allowed this to dry and then added highlights of Cadmium Red; final highlights were Cadmium Scarlet. One lesson that I learned the hard way was to pin the plume with a stiff piece of wire, as the plume is top heavy and will probably break without this reinforcement (mine did!)

Sword

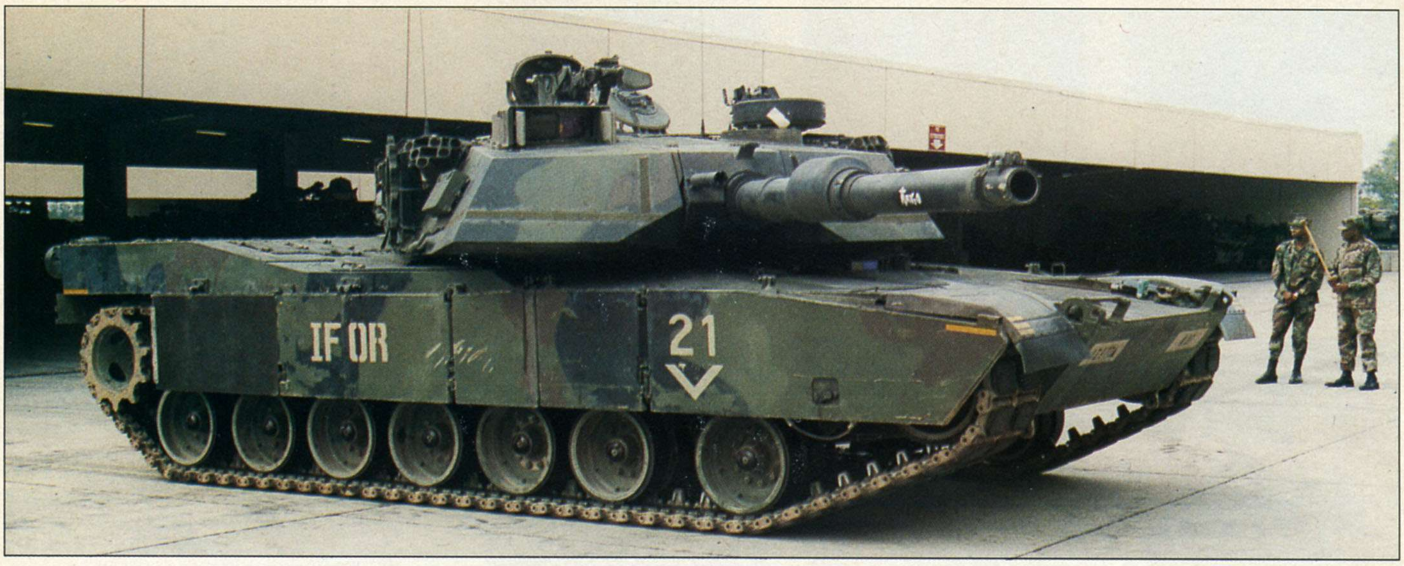
The sword hilt and scabbard were painted with Rich Gold printers' ink + Floquil Crystal Cote. After this base coat dried, I painted on an overcoat of Gunze Sangyo Clear Yellow. Shadows were painted with a mix of Mars Brown+Burnt Umber.

Now that the figure was painted, the task that I had feared from the start was at hand: attaching the sword and sabretache straps. I attached the figure to the finished base with 5-minute epoxy glue and allowed it to dry overnight. I had pre-fitted and bent the straps to fit the attachment points and next glued the three sabretache straps on with 5-minute epoxy glue. It is important to use epoxy glue for this step as a strong bond is essential.

The next step was to glue the sword hilt to the figure's hand and the tip of the scabbard to the finished groundwork. Again, a strong bond is essential and the glue was allowed to dry overnight. The final step was the most difficult, attaching the sword straps to the scabbard rings. Despite pre-fitting, bending and checking the fit at every step, it was nearly impossible to get both straps to hang naturally and still attach to the rings. After numerous attempts, various unprintable oaths and requests for divine assistance, I was finally able to fit the strap ends over the scabbard rings. A little A+B Putty and some final touch up painting and the job was done.

If I painted this figure again, I would probably cut off the cast-on straps and make my own. Unfortunately, this would result in the loss of the beautifully cast-on lace patterns. A possible solution would have been for Monsieur Leibovitz to cast the sword straps separately from the sabretache straps.

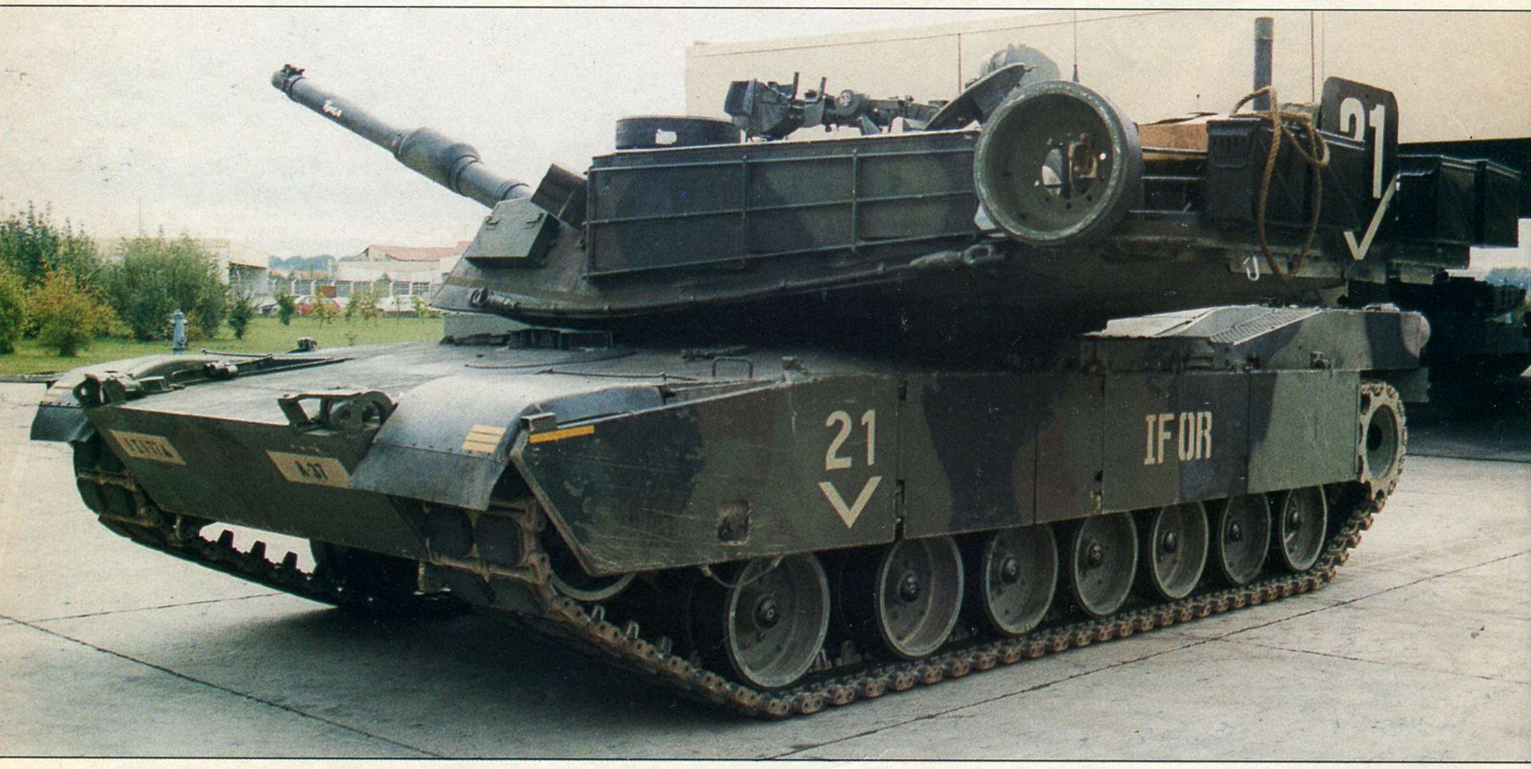
The final result was a striking figure and one which I am very proud of. This is not a figure that can be painted in a short period of time; it requires a lot of patience and careful brushwork. However, any painter who tackles this piece will truly appreciate the fine detail and superb sculpting. Thanks Monsieur Leibovitz for a truly spectacular contribution to the art of the Military Miniature. ■

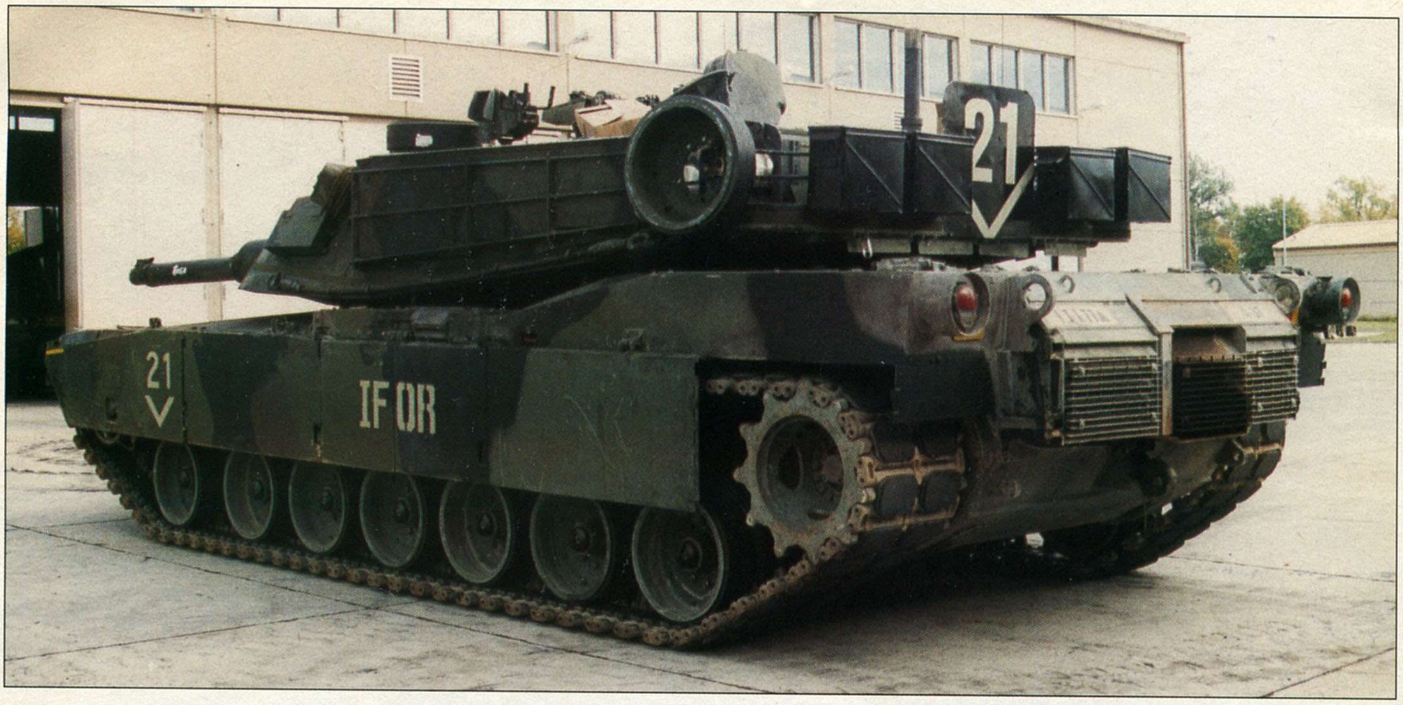


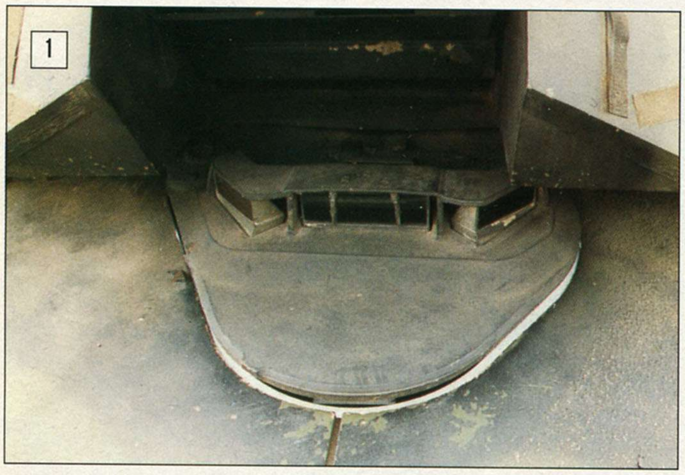
Views of 'Amigo'. The vehicle's personal name, written on the gun tube, has the top of the initial letter 'A' crossed to represent a cowboy hat.

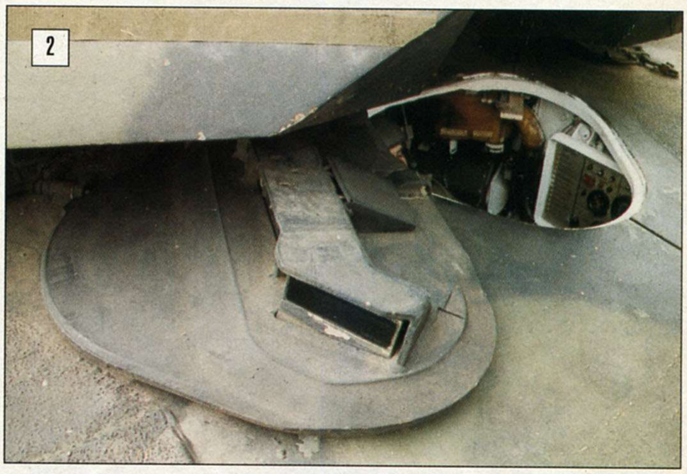
A Walk Around Abrams M1A1 HA

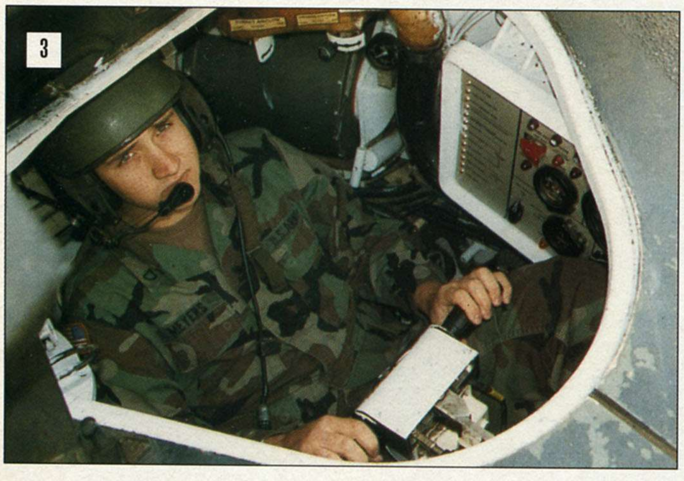
Andreas Kirchhoff concludes his detailed look at America's Main Battle Tank for modellers

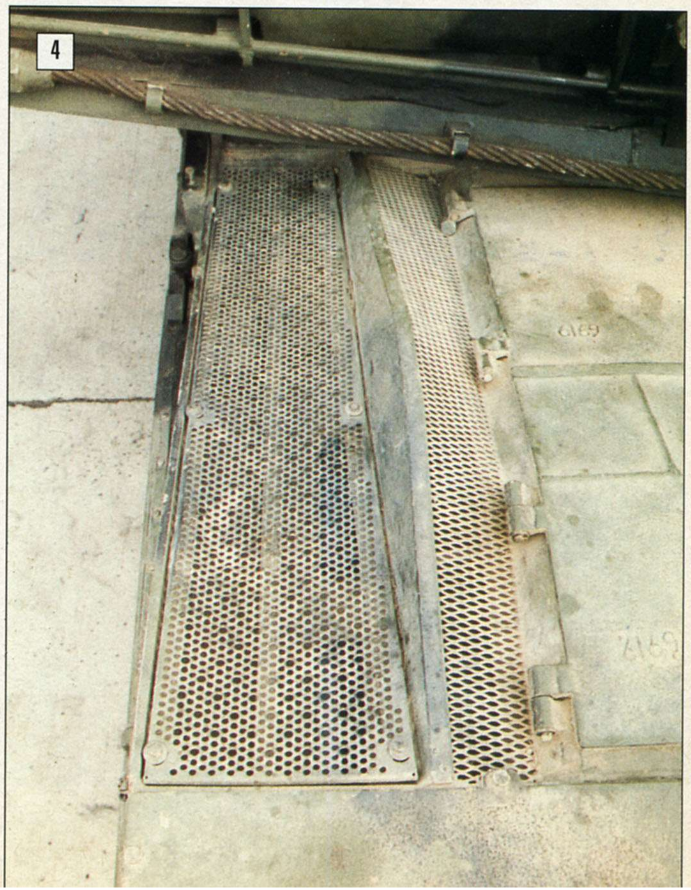












__1__. The driver's hatch closed with the gun forward at maximum elevation of +20°. Note the three periscopes of which only the middle one has two small screen wipers. __2__. The driver's hatch swung open to the right side of the vehicle. __3__. The driver with his seat in the closed down position. The instrument panel and control lights are to his left. Note the combined steering throttle control which is operated similar to a motorcycle twist grip. Its position is adjustable and can be fixed in any position in front of the driver to give a comfortable access to all main vehicle controls. __4__. The left side engine air intake. Note that two different kinds of mesh are used to cover the intake; diamond mesh on the small strip and a mesh of drilled holes near the hull side.

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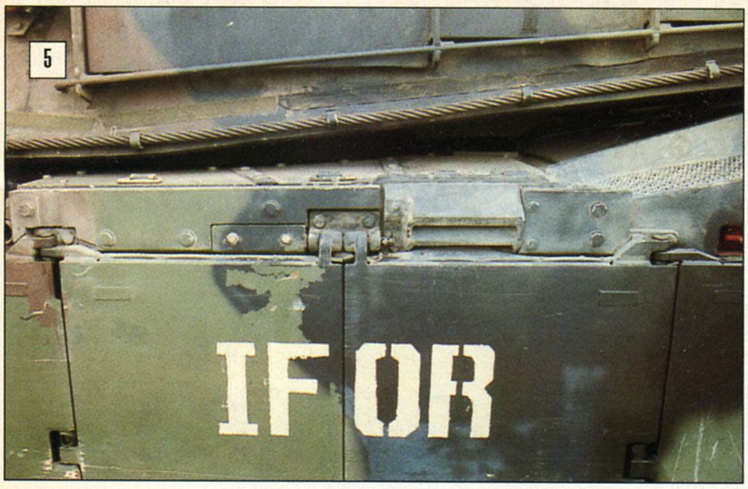

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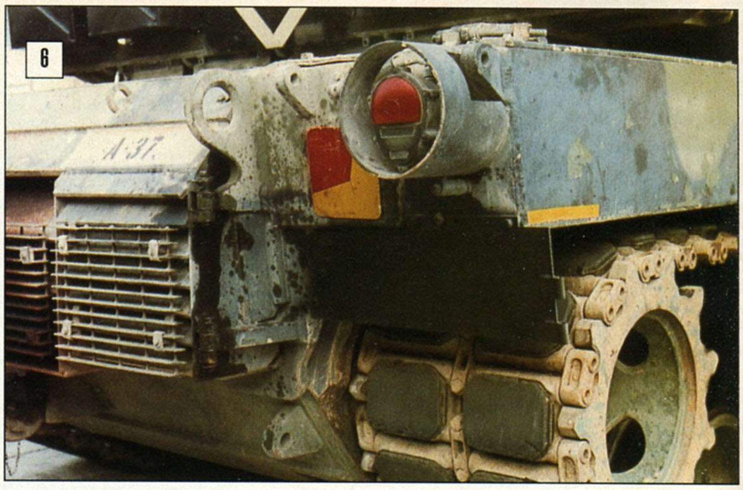

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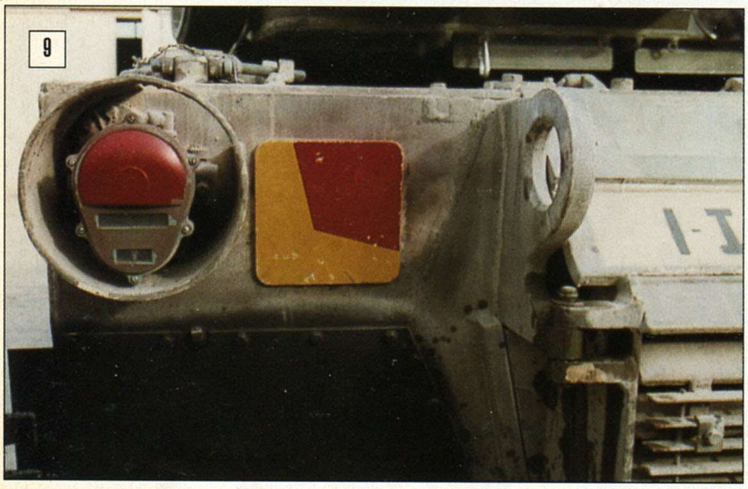

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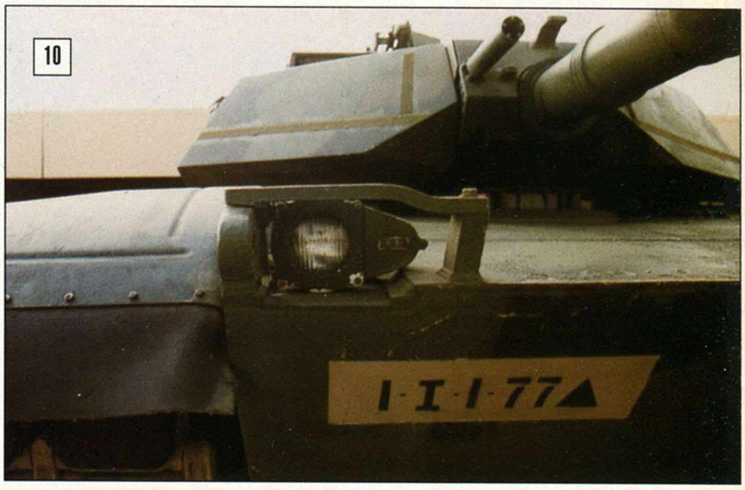

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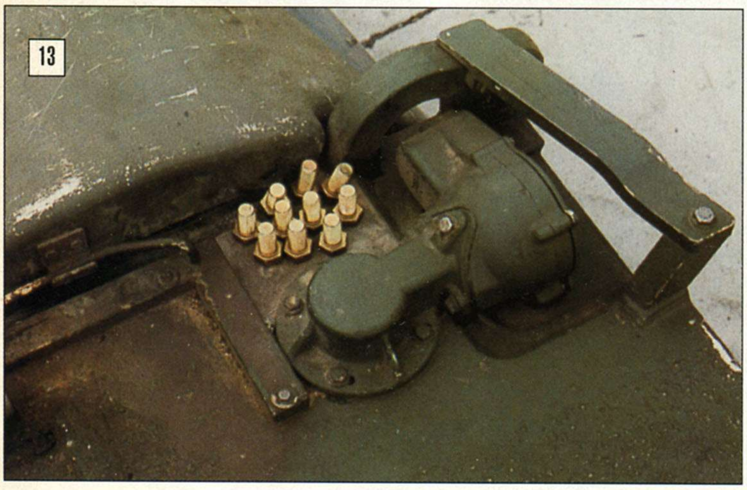

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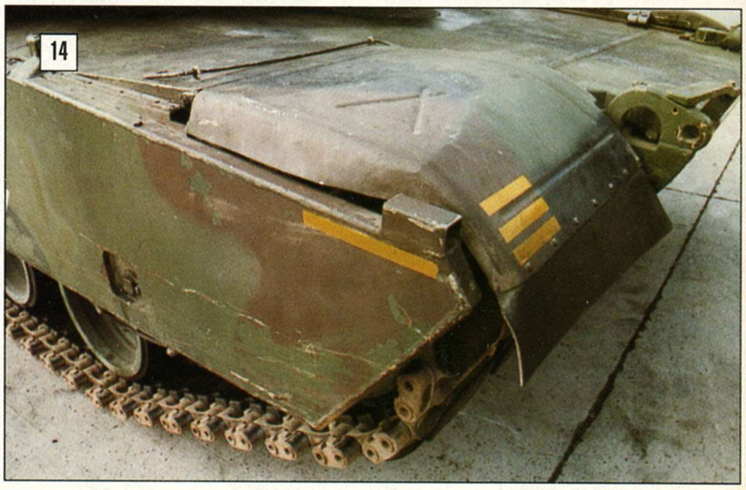

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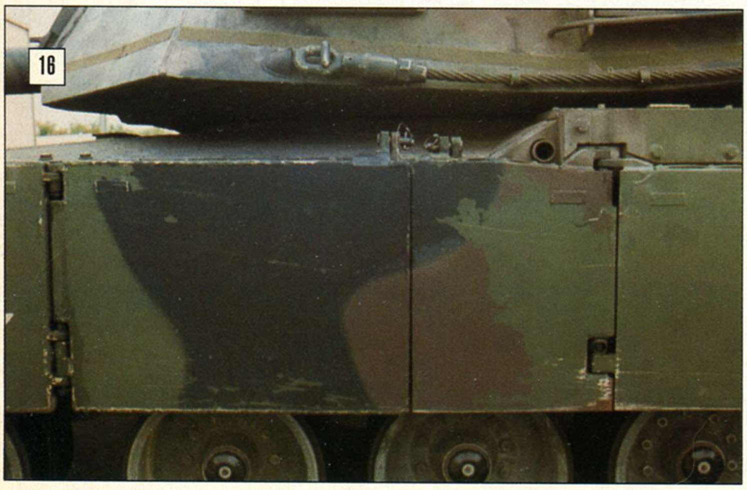

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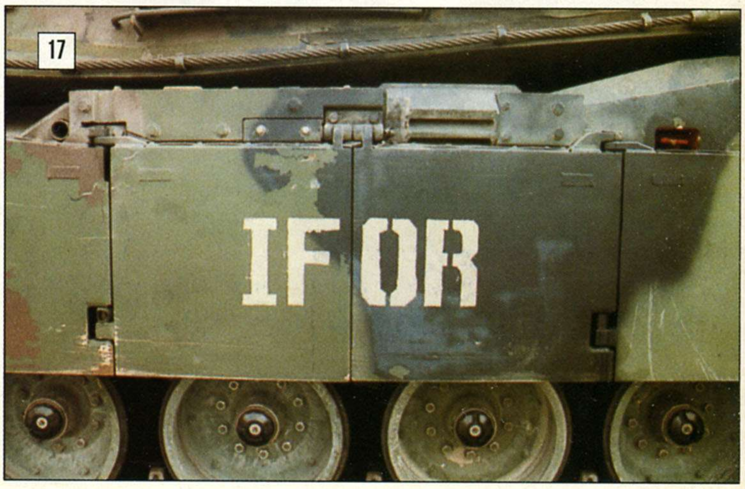

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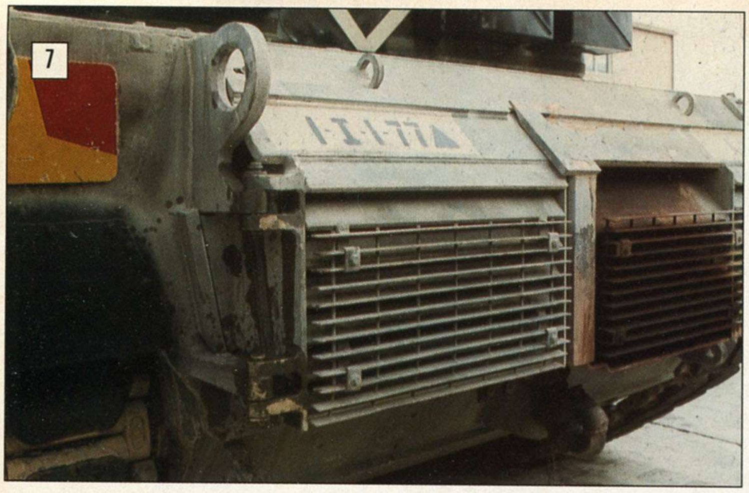

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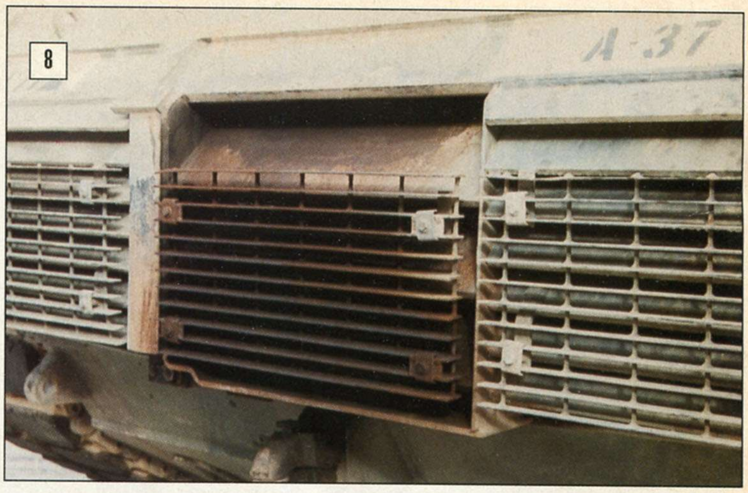

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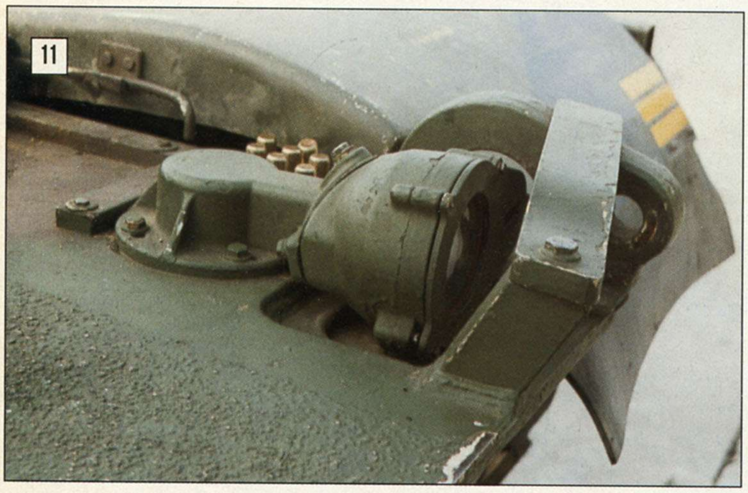

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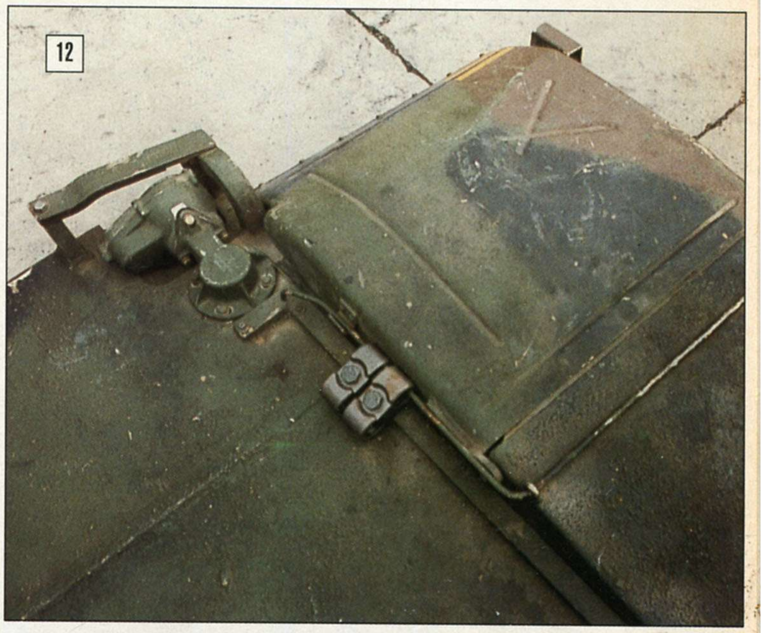

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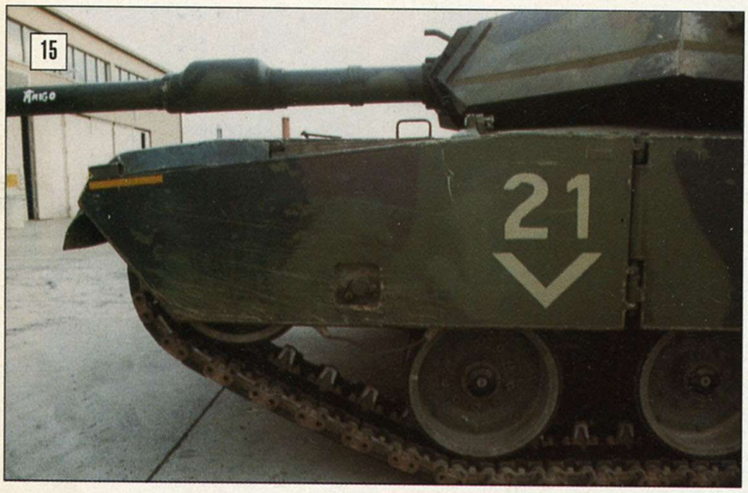

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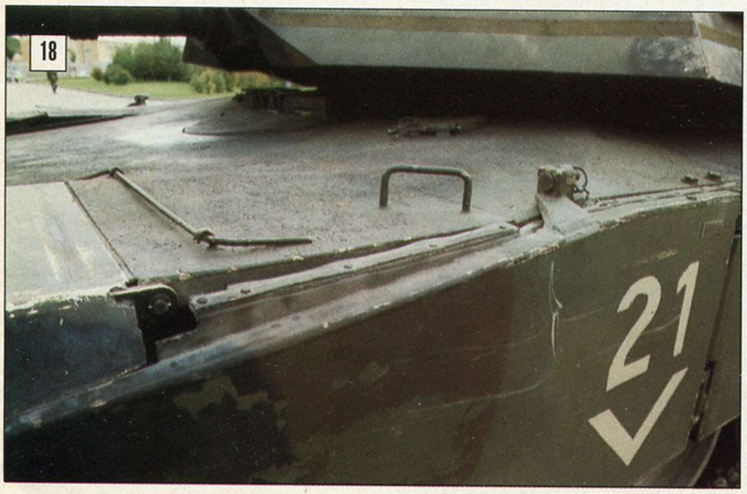
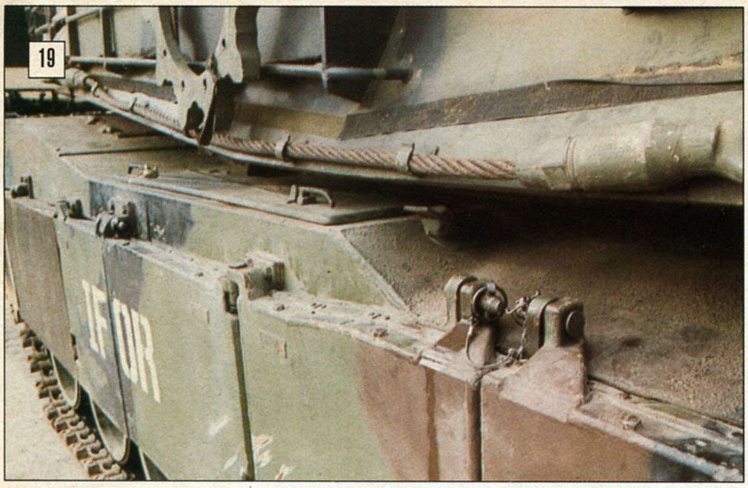


5. The NBC filter system mounted on the left side of the vehicle's upper hull. It is one of some new features fitted to all vehicles from M1A1 onwards.
6. Close up of the rear light that duals as a braking light by increasing the brightness when the brakes are applied. There is no signal/hazard indication light. The large lifting eye also acts as a base for the top hinge of the right air intake/exhaust door.
*7. Modellers please note that only the exhaust grille in the middle has a greasy black-brown colour. The air intake grilles remain in vehicle colours. The 'bumper code' identifies the vehicle as from 1-77 Armor, the first armoured battalion of 1st Infantry Division. This unit changed its number around two years ago, its former identity being 2/64 Armor, part of 3rd Infantry Division. **8.** Close up of the exhaust grille and the towing hook below it. Bumper code A37 identifies the vehicle as a vehicle from the 3rd platoon in A-Company. **9.** Left rear light and lifting eye. The yellow/red warning sign is common on most US Army vehicles to avoid traffic accidents when operating in dimmed light or at night. **10.** Right side driving light. Note that there is no signal/hazard indication light or mirror.*
*The absence of these, not just needed in a tank action, increases the hazards to traffic on civilian roads. **11.** Side view of the driving light. The small towing eye is needed to fix mine clearing systems to the front of the vehicle. The thin rod holds the mudguard in place. **12.** A conduit covers the wire to the driving light. Note the rod that prevents the mudguard from being lifted up by debris. The crew have added two track pin end connectors as additional weight to keep the rod from springing upwards. **13.** Top view of the left-hand side driving light and a large lifting eye. It seems as if the light has to be removed before starting a lifting operation. The bolts were placed there for safety as the vehicle had undergone maintenance just before this photograph was taken. **14.** Right-hand side mudguard. Note the reflective yellow stripe warning devices. **15.** The first armoured side skirt on the left hand side is fixed by two hinges and secured in place by two locks, one at the top and another just above the bottom clearly visible in a square cut-out. The marking identifies the vehicle as an A-Company, vehicle. **16.** Second and third armoured skirts on the left side of the vehicle. **17.** Fourth and fifth armoured skirts on the left side just below the NBC filter system. **18.** Close up of the first armoured skirt upper locking pin. The grab handle next to it assists in mounting the vehicle. Visible just below the turret edge is one of four fuel filler caps, two at the front and additional two on the rear of the engine deck.*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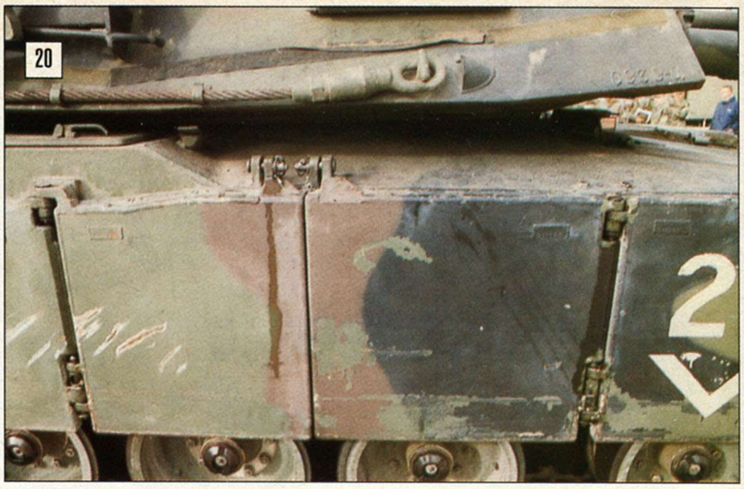
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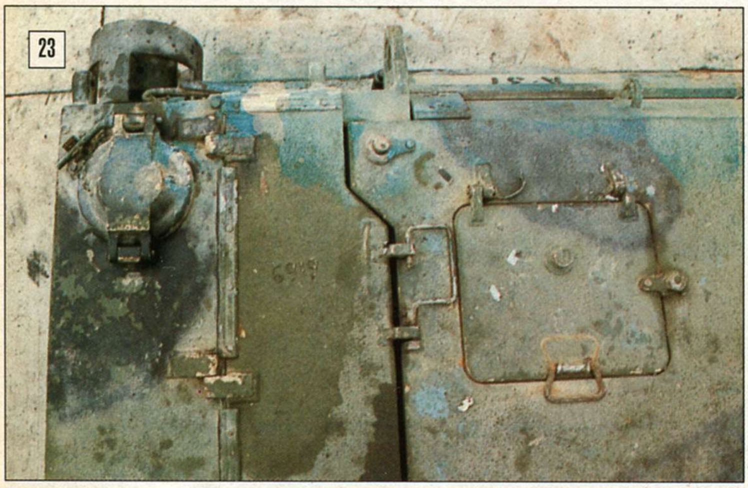
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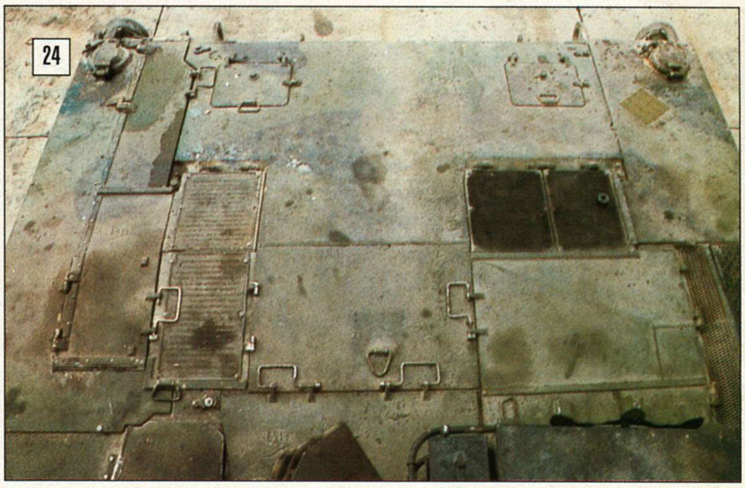
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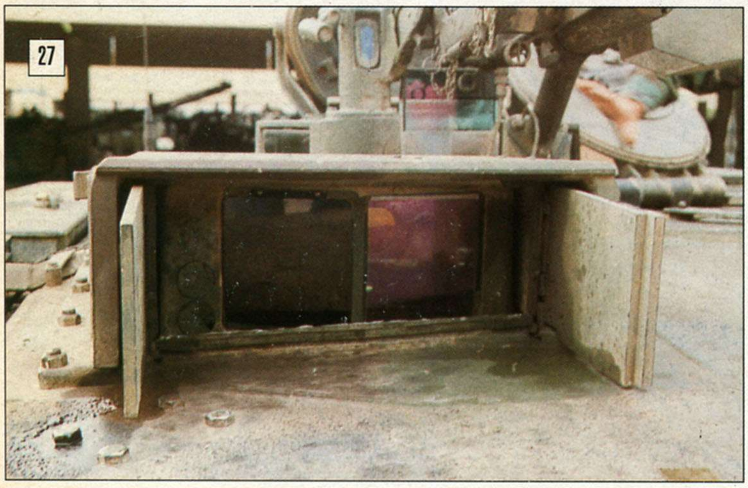
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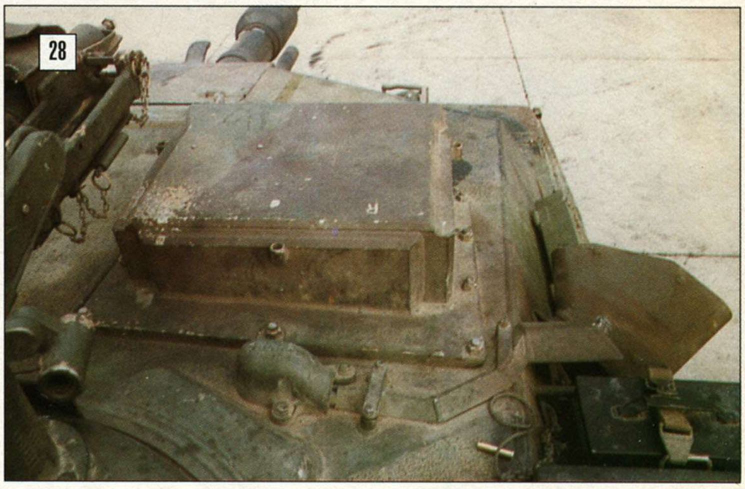
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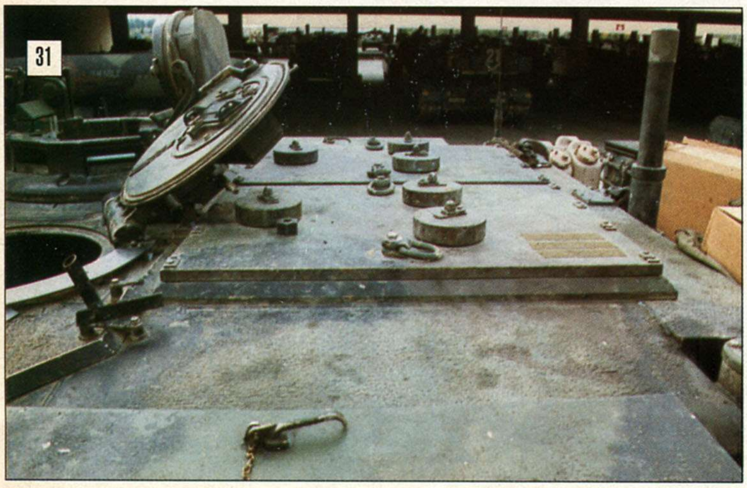
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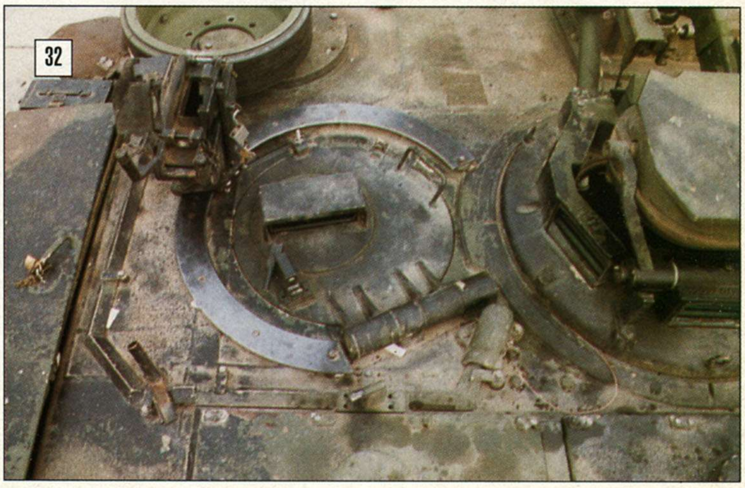
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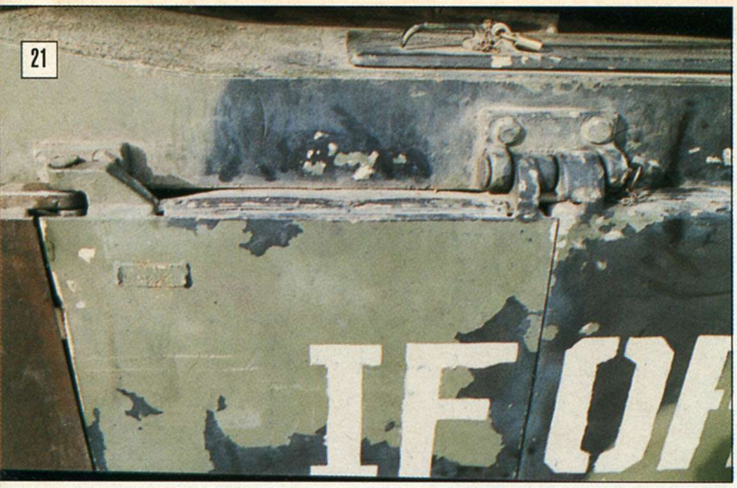

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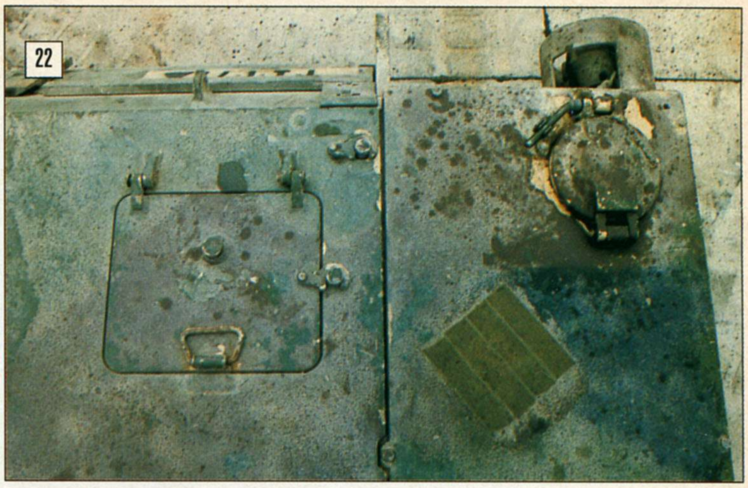

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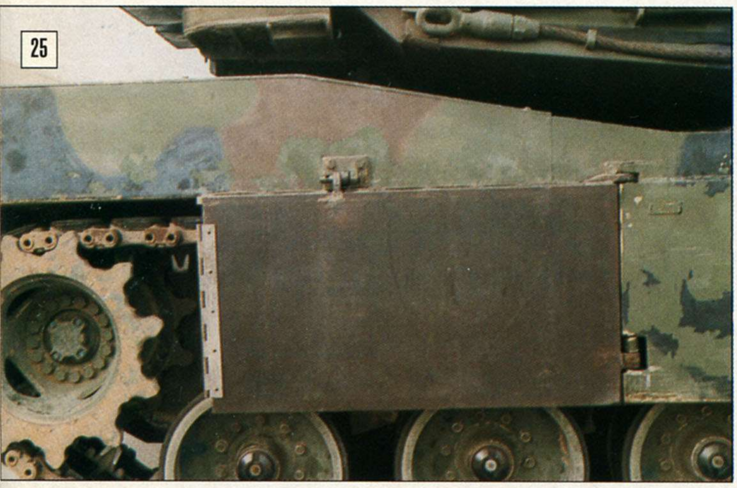

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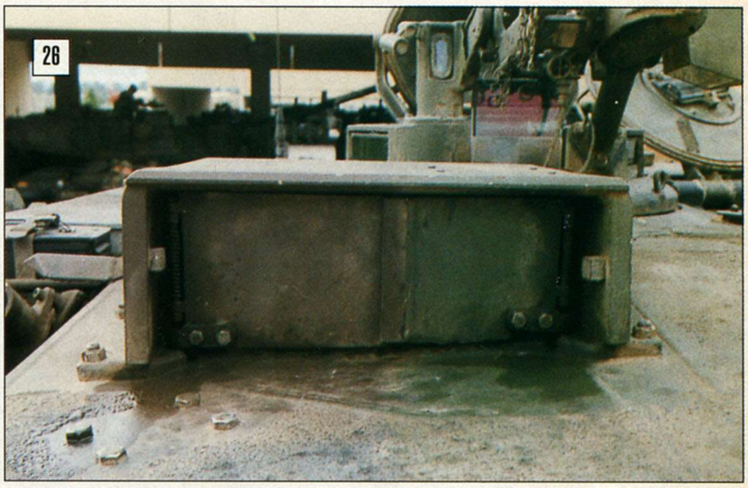

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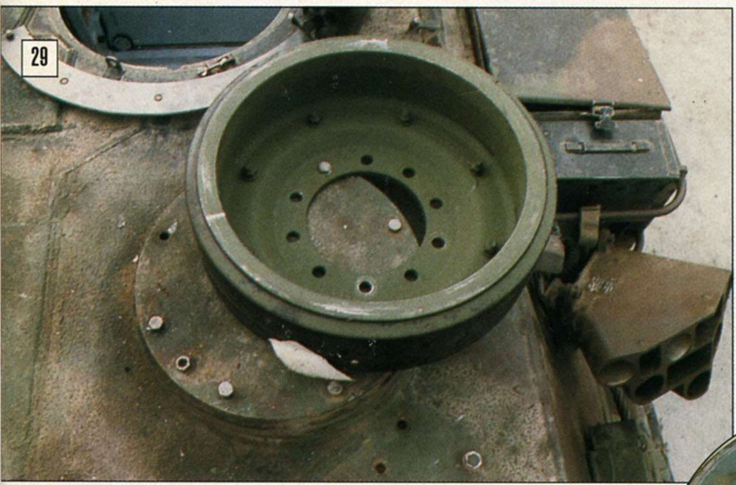

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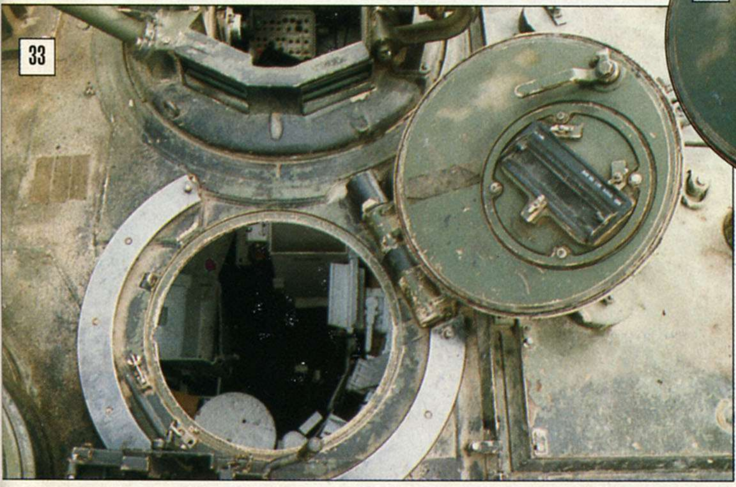

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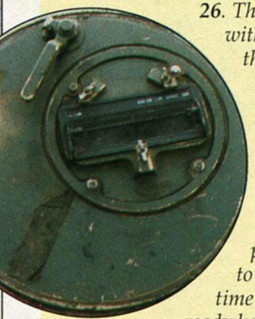

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19. Hinges and locking devices of the second and subsequent side skirts on the right side. 20. Second and third side skirts on the right side. Note that these are different sizes to those fitted on the left side of the hull. 21. Close up of the hinges and locking devices of fourth, fifth and sixth side skirts on the right. Modellers should note the way the black colour has been torn off the Forest Green base colour and also note the design of the 'IFOR' logo stencilled on the side skirts. 22. Left side fuel filler cap and access door. 23. Right side fuel filler cap and battery compartment access door next to it. Modellers please note that a number is welded on most of the access doors and flaps on the engine deck. On this particular vehicle it is the number '6919', and on this picture it is visible on the battery access door next to the filler cap. 24. A view of the complete engine deck showing the general layout of air intakes, maintenance and access doors. 25. The sixth side skirt on the right side. Note that provision is made to connect a seventh side skirt by a 'piano' type hinge. Fitting the rear side skirt is not popular with crews despite its large cut-out. The skirt is often damaged when debris builds up on the sprocket ring and most of the tanks do not have it fitted.

26. The armoured housing for the gunner's primary sight (GPS) with its doors closed. 27. The GPS includes real image and thermal observation sights for night vision. The laser rangefinder is also mounted into this housing. 28. The rear of the GPS housing. Note the protected cable conduit routed to the smoke dischargers. 29. The circular armoured plate covers what will be the position for a retro-fitted commander's separate and independent vision device. The sight was not ready when production of M1A1(HA) began and, therefore, is fitted only to M1A2 production vehicles. Whether the sight will be retro-fitted to M1A1 vehicles is a question of available finance. For the time being the position serves as a handy stowage for a spare roadwheel. 30. Two armoured doors on the rear turret roof are the 'blow-out' panels of the ammunition compartment. Most modern battle tanks have this feature to expel the pressure caused by any explosion resulting from a direct hit into the ammunition stowage. Ammunition is stored in an armoured box at the rear of the turret which opens automatically when a fresh round is required. 31. Close-up of the blow-out panels. When replenishing the tank's ammunition the complete compartment is lifted out of the turret and replaced by a filled unit. 32. Loader's hatch closed a 7.62mm machine-gun is mounted on the hatch ring and can be turned through 270°. A single periscope is located on the loader's hatch. 33/34. The loader's hatch opened. Clearly visible are the locking handle and the periscope on its inner surface that can be closed if not needed.

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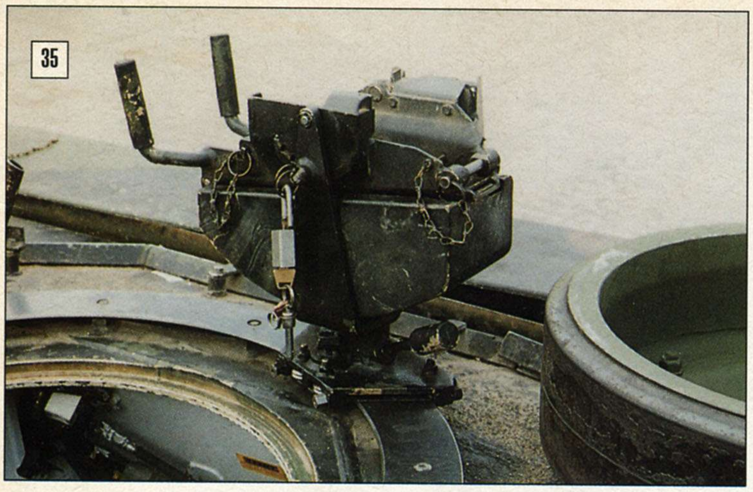

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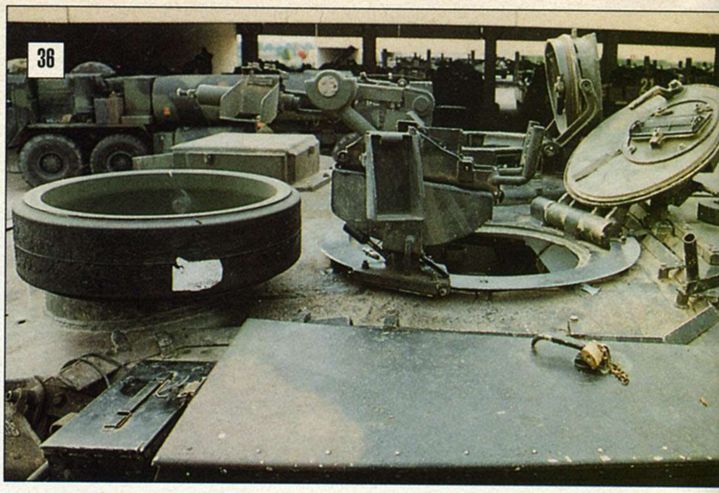

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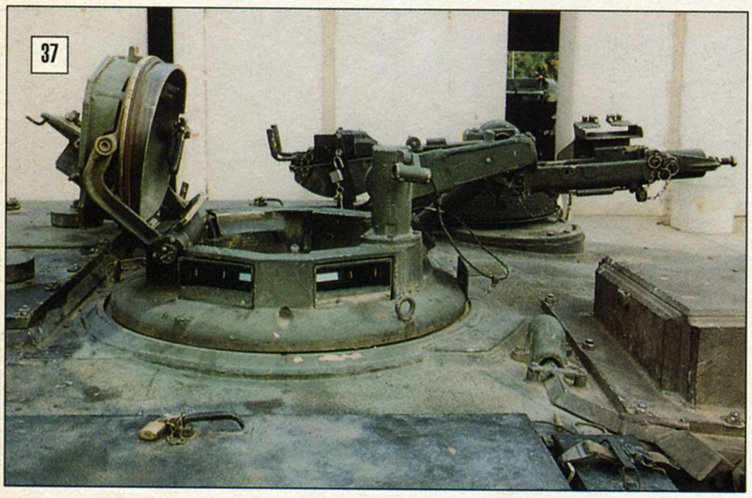

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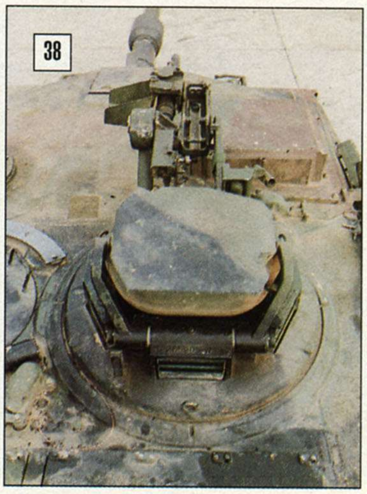

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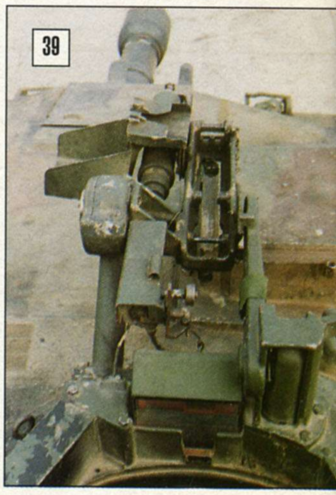

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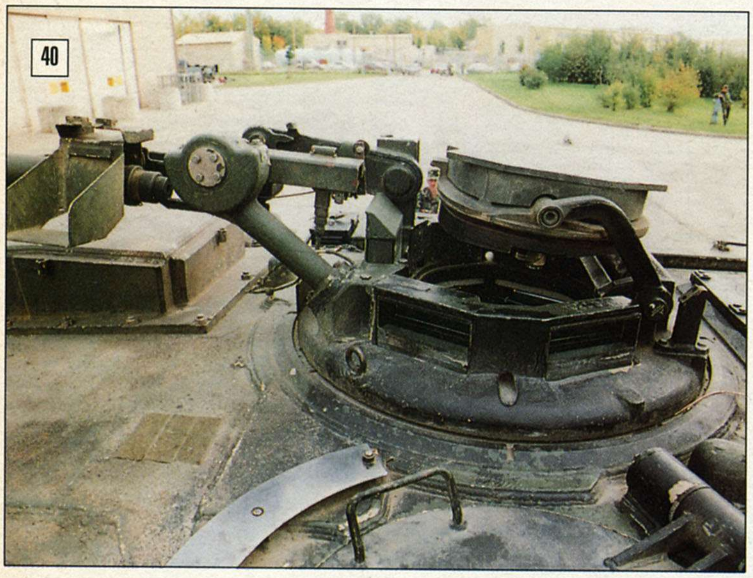

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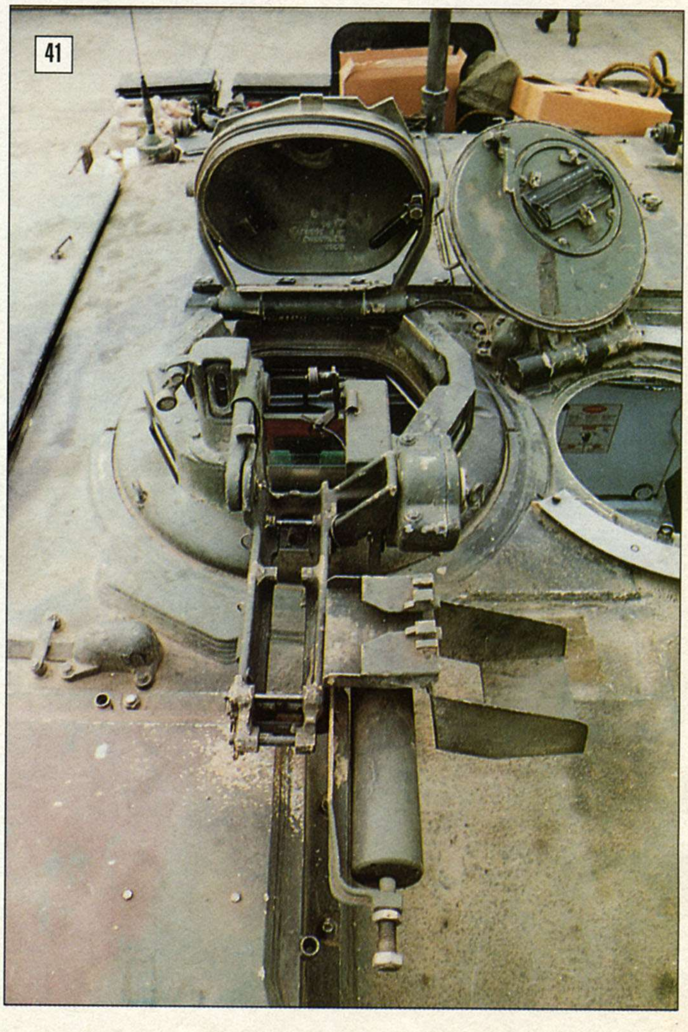
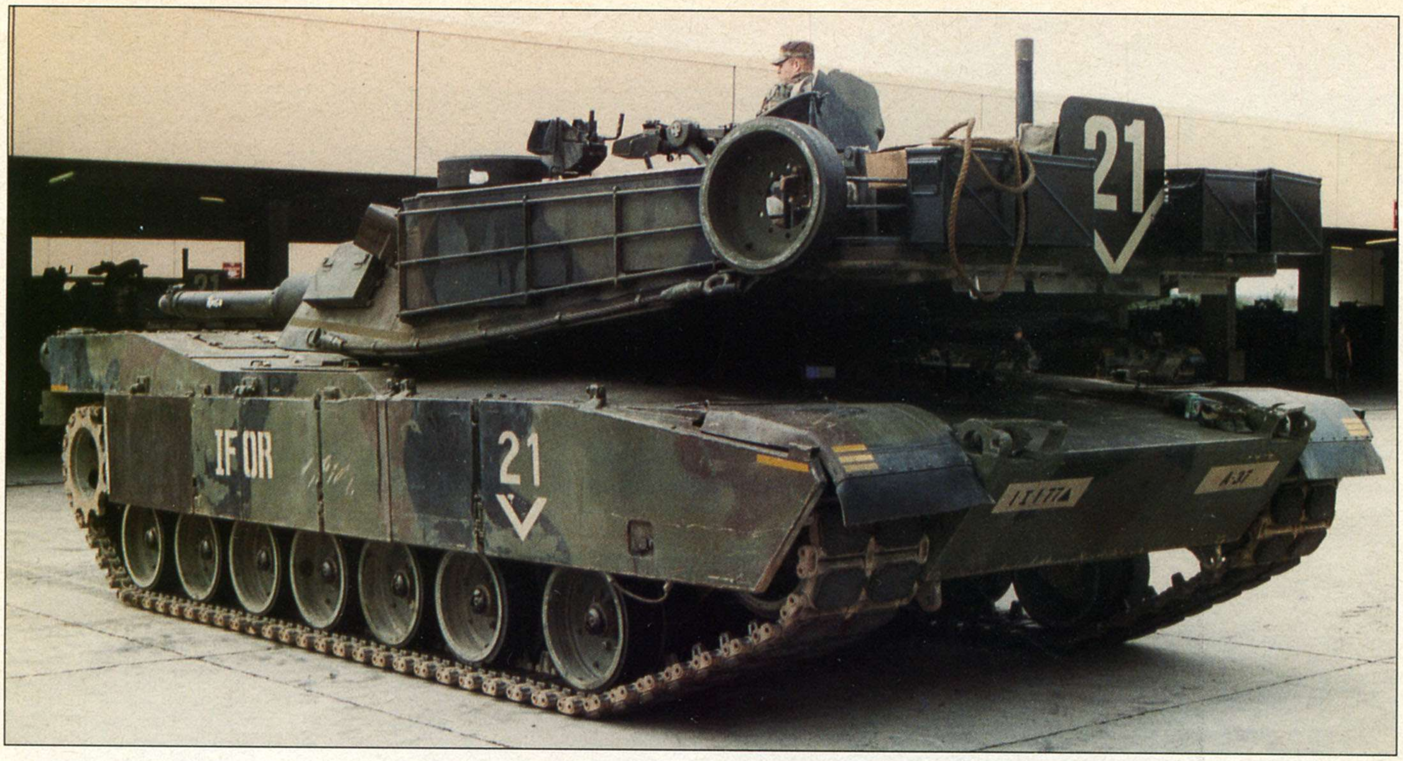


35. *Close-up of the M240 FN MAG58 machine-gun mount. The fire rate is at 900 rounds per minute and ammunition stowage is 1,2400 rounds.* **36**. *Side view of the loader's cupola and machine-gun mount with the spare roadwheel mounted on the position provided for the commander's sight.* **37**. *Side view of the commander's cupola with the hatch opened. The complete cupola can be turned through 360°. Six periscopes are incorporated in the cupola ring.* **38**. *Rear view of the commander's cupola. The hatch is fixed in a 'protected open' position. This enables the commander to survey the territory with the hatch acting as a cover against fragments of artillery rounds detonating overhead.* **39**. *Close-up of the commander's machine-gun mount, seen from the rear.* **40**. *Commander's hatch in the 'protected open' position from the side.* **41**. *Commander's and loader's positions from the front with the hatches opened. This picture gives a good view of the M2 cal .50 (12.7mm) machine-gun. The ammunition stowage for the M2 MG is 900 rounds.*



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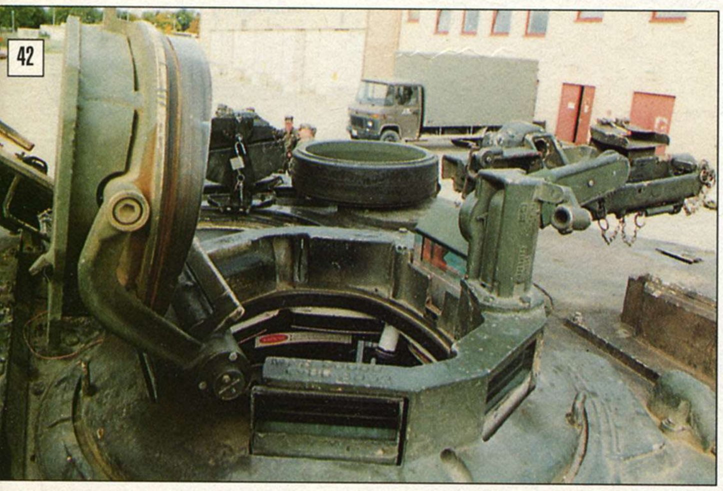

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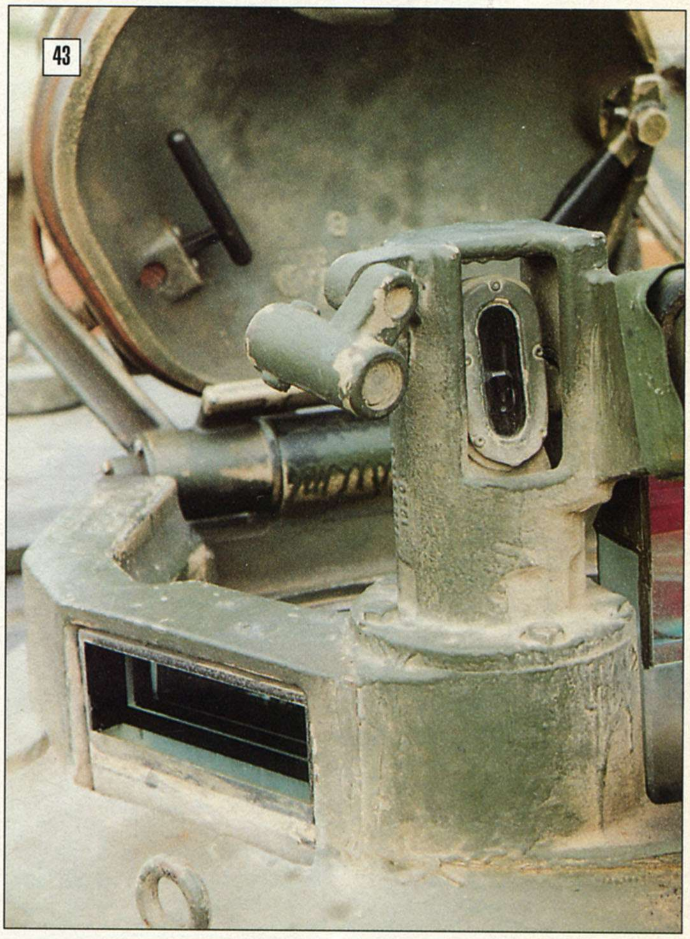

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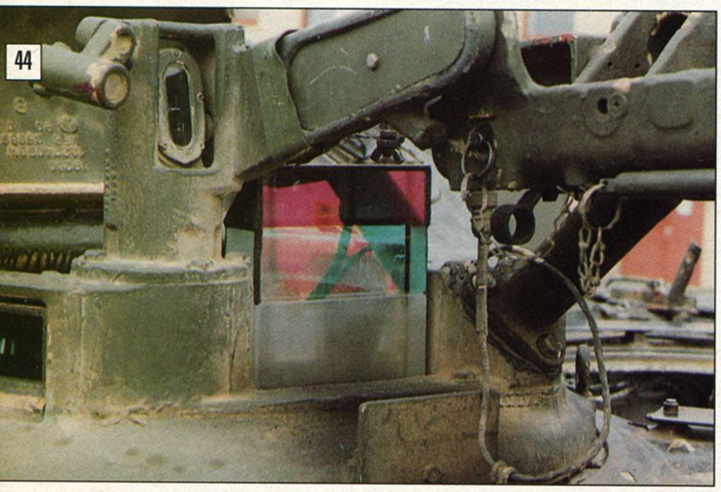

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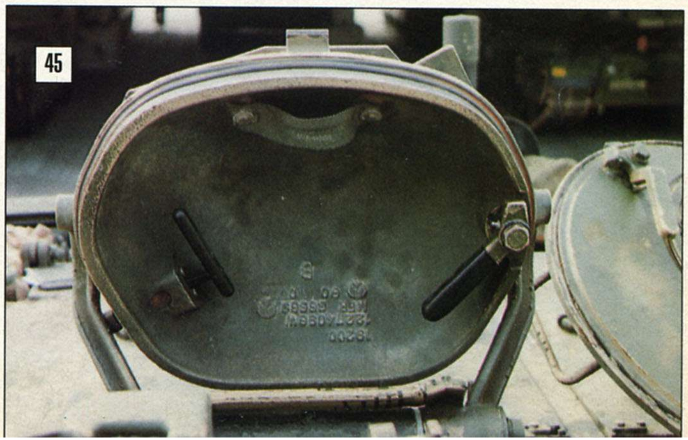


__42__. The mechanism of the commander's hatch seen in detail. Please also note that the front periscope of the cupola is also clear from the rear and appears red in colour. __43__. Periscope sight for the commander's machine-gun in its armoured housing. __44__. Modellers please note that the front periscope of the commander's cupola appears as if it is constructed in three different stages: 'misty-clear' at the bottom, clear in the centre and red coloured clear at the top. __45__. Close-up of the inside of the commander's hatch. Clearly visible is the locking handle (right) and a T-handle that locks the hatch against swinging when in the fully open position.

DESPATCH

The Editor welcomes readers' letters for publication which must always be accompanied by the writer's full name and address. The address will be published in full if the letter is interpreted as a request for information to the readership. Otherwise only the writer's full name will be published. Letters are not, under any circumstances, altered or severely edited; however, they may be shortened because of available space restrictions.

Letters to the Editor intended for publication should be addressed to "Despatch", Military Modelling, Nexus Special Interests, Nexus House, Boundary Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7ST.

READERS' LETTERS

Pistols only

Dear Sir,
I recently read your review about the Verlinden 120mm *Fallschirmjäger* figure.

Your comment that German paratroopers only carried pistols during their descent is not quite accurate. During the initial German airborne drops of WWII in Holland they suffered heavy casualties due to, as you say, trying to locate their weapons containers, from this experience, the drops that followed Holland such as Crete (1941) and Leros (1943) many men carried rifles and MP40 submachine-guns on them during the drop due to the strong possibility of them not being able to find or get to the containers due to enemy fire.

The pouches for the MP40 were also sometimes carried attached to the legs below the knees.

Ian Dewey

"It's a fair-cop Guv!"

Dear Sir,
With reference to Mr Ridgewell's letter from Vol.27 Issue No.6, I have to hold up my hands and say, "It's a fair-cop Guv!". If I have learned anything from researching, it is to 'never say never', so I apologise if I appeared overly-opinionated.

What I do not apologise for, is challenging the practices that have become accepted in the modelling fraternity, simply because one or two respected modellers adopt them as the norm. Take for example Verlinden's display models. Each is beautifully constructed, painted and detailed, but - and any photographic evidence will bare me out on this - they simply do not capture the look of real 'used and abused' equipment (more 'Wayne Slob' than 'Tony Blair'), even the oil stains have Michael Angelosque quality! Yet despite this, these have become the benchmark for authenticity.

Other leaders in the field advocate an egg-shell finish to vehicles, whilst from my personal experience, after a couple of hours 'work' they become matter than matt, except from very, very close range. I can bare this out, as whilst in the Army I have overflown military vehicles in helicopters on many occasions.

I do not wish to tell people how to enjoy their hobby - quite the opposite - be your own person.

I recently read an interesting article on the Internet (Anorak Alert!) written by Canadian modeller Paul A. Owen. In it he explained how a model *Jagdpanther* was marked down in a competition because it was not 'dry-brushed'. I have always 'dry-brushed' models and it got me thinking. Although this method does accentuate detail, it is largely an inaccurate finish. I suppose that the ideal is a balance between accuracy and simply 'looking good'.

As a child I festooned my favourite Airfix 1:76 scale Chieftain tank with so much extra stowage (from Bren LMG's to spare tyres!) that it resembled more a Pickford's removal van than an MBT, yet I was convinced that it 'looked good'. (Oh! The shame of it!)

Back to my previous letter's comments on stowage. I was perhaps equating peace-time practices with that of war-time expediency. With logistics under constant pressure I should imagine that certain safety practices would have been given a back seat. On the subject of the Warrior with TOW containers mounted externally next to jerrycans, these would definitely not have contained TOW rounds, because only the Army Air Corps uses this system, the infantry being issued *Milan*.

If the photograph referred to is the one that I am familiar with, the jerry cans are the standard plastic Army issue water cans, which would probably melt if POL were placed in them. Used ammo boxes have certainly always been used as *ad hoc* storage boxes, but loose unboxed ordnance would not generally be stored this way, despite how good it might look.

John Farthing

Sharpe's Waterloo

Dear Sir,
In volume 27, Issue No.3 of ***Military Modelling***, there was an article about the last episode of the Sharpe series, *Sharpe's Waterloo*.

I am a member of a re-enacting group that re-creates the Battalion Line Infantry No.7 of the Dutch-Belgian army of 1814-1815, a unit that took part in the battles of Quatre Bras and Waterloo as part of the Bylandt brigade. Imagine my surprise when I found a picture of, 'a Dutch Infantry Captain'. Whatever that person was wearing, it didn't even come close to the uniform of a Dutch officer! Nassau, maybe, but how could this mistake be made?

This only makes me more suspicious of the manner the Dutch-Belgian army will be displayed in the series. After all, we only hear of the Dutch-Belgians at Waterloo as being 'cowards', 'unreliable' and 'unable to take part in a serious battle' for the last 185 years or so. However, I was pleased to read that Major-General Peroncher was referred to as the man that defended Quatre-Bras and thus made the battle of Waterloo possible two days later. (It is said that his exact words in a reaction towards the order by Wellington to retreat from Quatre-Bras were: "One does not start a campaign with a withdrawal").

Still, it is quite disappointing to see that ***MM*** made this mistake. When the tuft of a shako is painted the other way around on a model, a storm of letters and discussions follow: why not be more accurate this time? Hopefully this won't happen again, because we as a re-enactment group try our best to give the best possible display of the Dutch-Belgian soldiers at Waterloo; that makes a mistake like this all the more grieving.

Speaking of Quatre-Bras: apart from the 5,000 Dutch-Belgian infantry and the dozen or so cannon, there were, for some reason, 50 Prussian Hussars at the scene when the battle began. Has anyone any idea of which unit they were part? It is still a mystery how they got there in the first place, and no one seems to know how and why they came there.

By the way, hasn't anyone noticed that the Triarius in the Carthaginian War Elephant display (***MM*** Vol.27 No.1) bears his shield upside down? If he was to hold the shield down, the two wolves in the shields' decoration would show with their heads to the bottom! Maybe nick-picking, but it seems to me that this is a mistake that even the most experienced modeller can make. Brilliant display, nevertheless.

Marc Schaftenaar
The Netherlands

'CRIES FOR HELP'

● Does any manufacturer make resin or white metal replacement 6 pdr guns for the 1:35 scale Emhar Mk.IV Male/Tadpole tail kits. Also, can anyone give colour details of the interior of Israeli M113 Zeldas. And finally, does the Dragon M50 Super Sherman require the lower hull shortening by 5/6mm as do their other M4 A4 variants. I hope someone out there can help with my requests. Thank you.

David J. Hope, 126 Caldy Road,
Handforth, Wilmslow,
Cheshire SK9 3BS.

● I am trying to find the Verlinden 200mm (1:9 scale) *Waffen SS* NCO Normandy Cat No.590. If anyone has this, and can bear to part with it, please would you let me know.

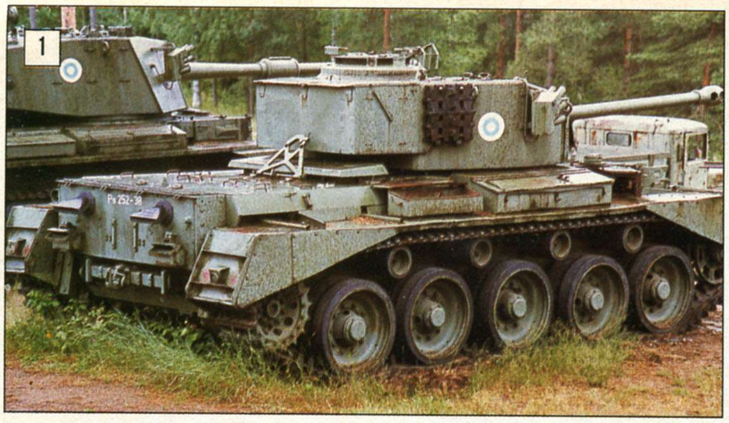
Mr V.B. Nicholls, 38 Lucas Road,
Colchester, Essex CO2 7ER.

● I have just purchased Verlinden Production's model of the American Civil War 12 pounder gun (Napoleon). The assembly instructions are a bit skimpy as I have never assembled a field gun before. I would like to get it right, and would appreciate help. Is there a publication that would give me more information, i.e. detail drawings, photographs, etc. I have purchased the book, *The American Civil War Recreated in Colour Photographs* by Dr. David Th. Schiller. A good book, but of no help to me. I hope someone can help me.

Malcolm K. Read, No.14 Jacey Road,
Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 0LL.

● I have been attempting to purchase a model made by Esci of a 1:9 scale Zündapp motorcycle, but I have been told that this model is out of production. I wondered whether any readers might be able to provide any information to locate one.

A. Graham, Thatched Cottage,
The Green, Hatfield Peverel,
Essex CM3 2JQ.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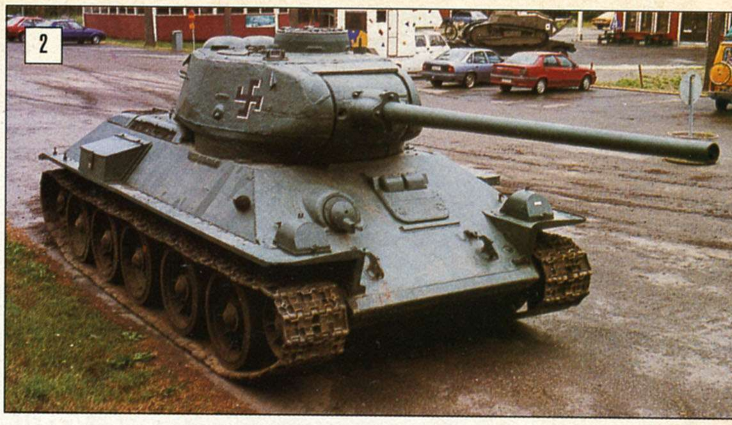
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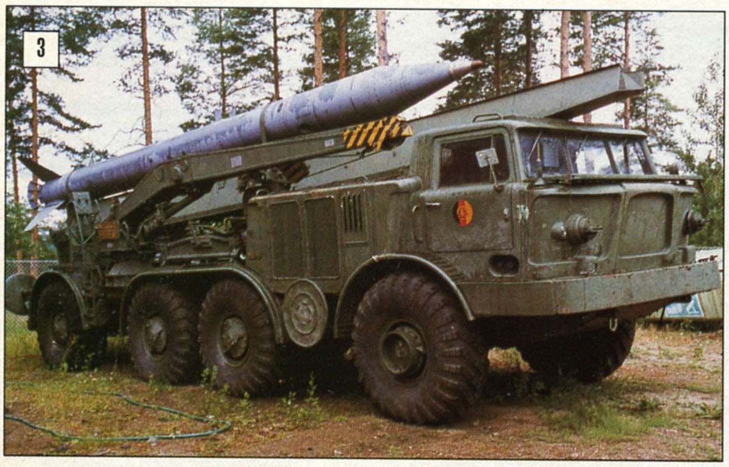
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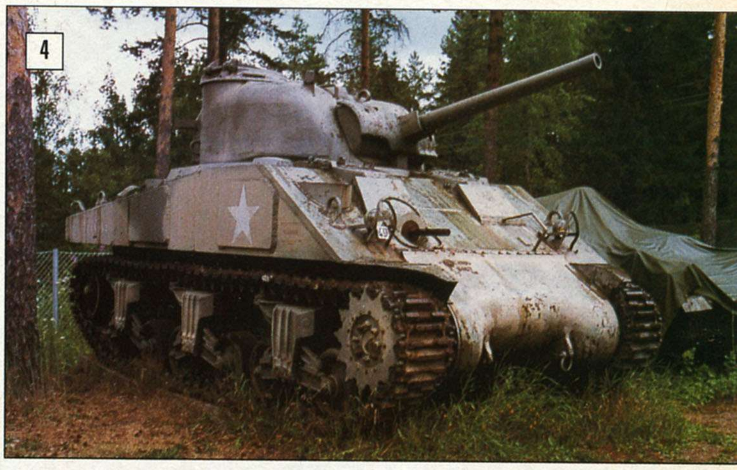
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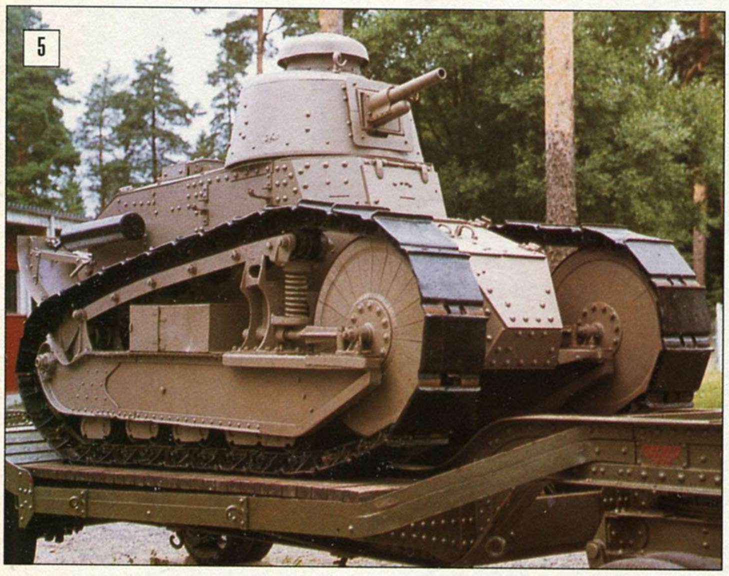
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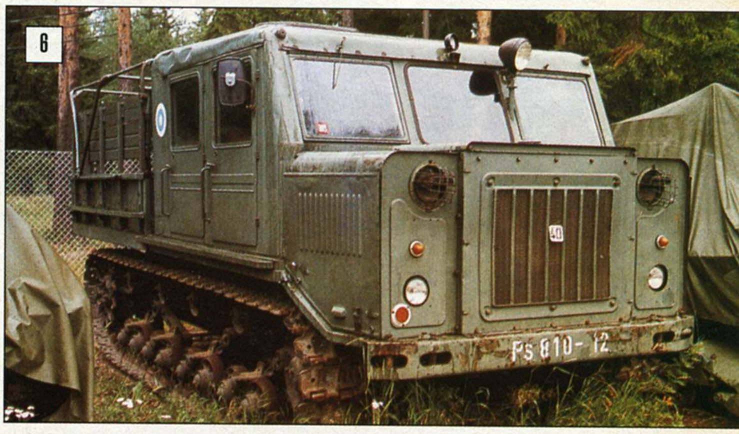
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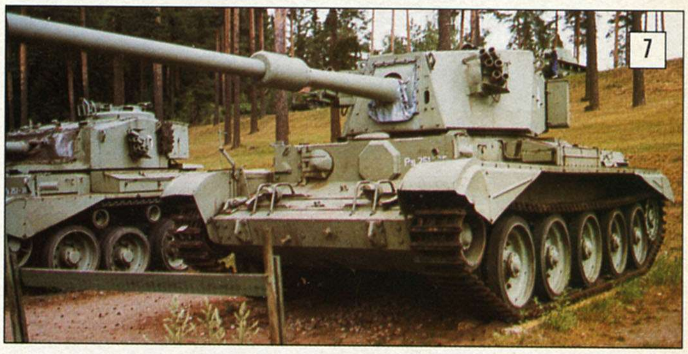
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1. British Comet Mark I. 2. A fully operational Soviet T34/85 at rest in the Museum's car park. 3. A recent acquisition, the Luna M (NATO codename Frog 7) was formerly in service with the East German army. 4. M4 Sherman with appliqué armour has a later commander's cupola hatch. Vehicle retains its US Army markings. 5. A fine example of a French FT 1917 on a transporter welcomes visitors to Parola. 6. Soviet AT-S Soviet medium artillery tractor. 7. British Charioteer Mark VII B.

PAROLA TANK MUSEUM

We covered Finland's armoured fighting vehicle museum in the dark and distant past. Fraser Gray has since visited the site and offers an illustrated tour of the exhibits for readers who are not aware of this unique collection. Most of the vehicles served in the Finnish army are marked with a broken cross or post war roundel national emblem

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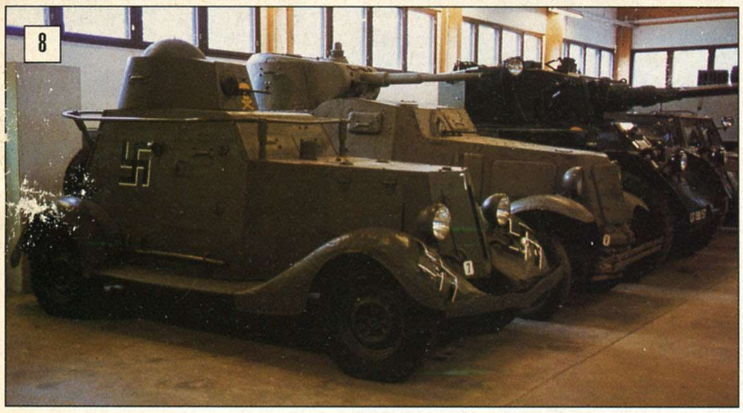

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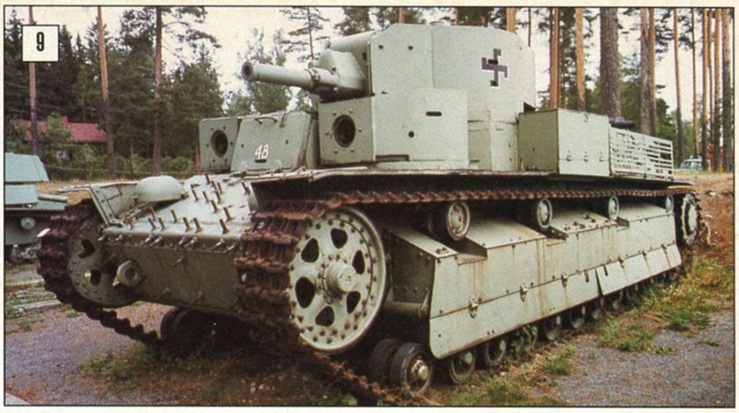

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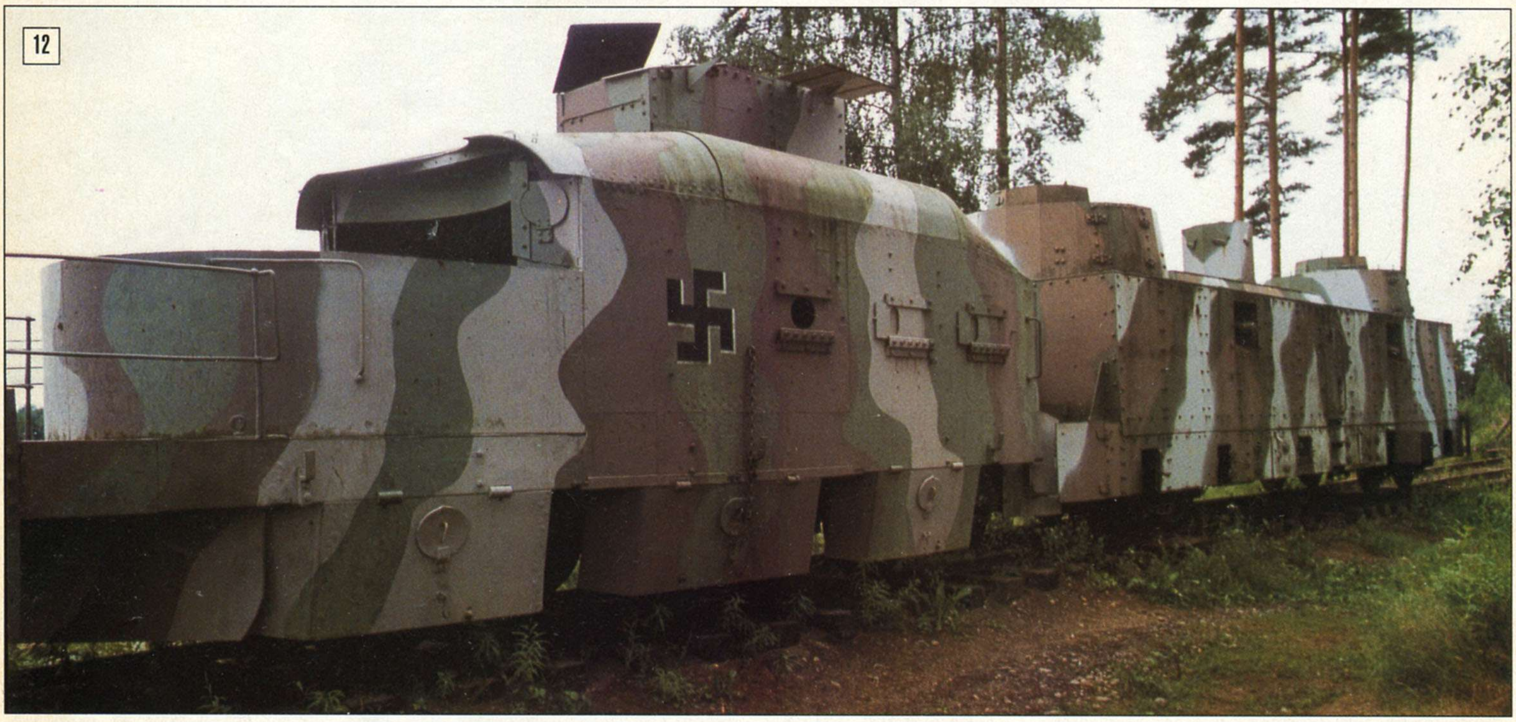

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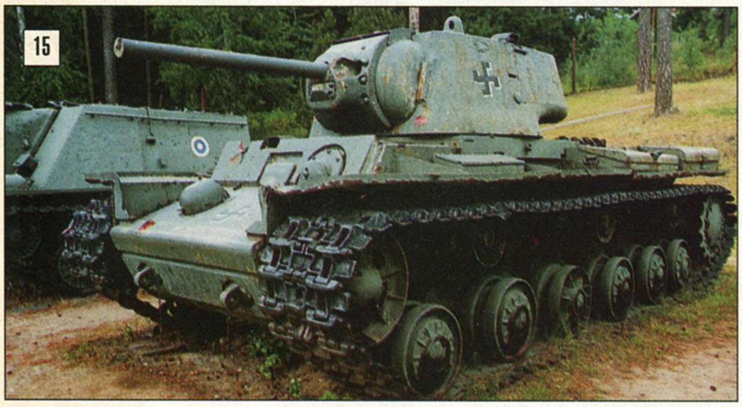

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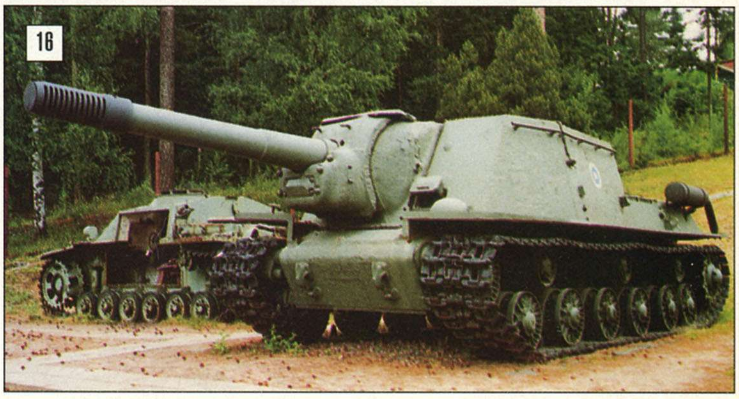

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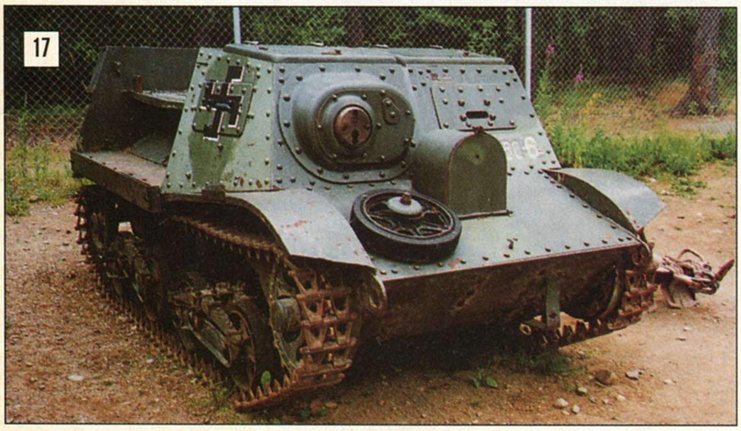

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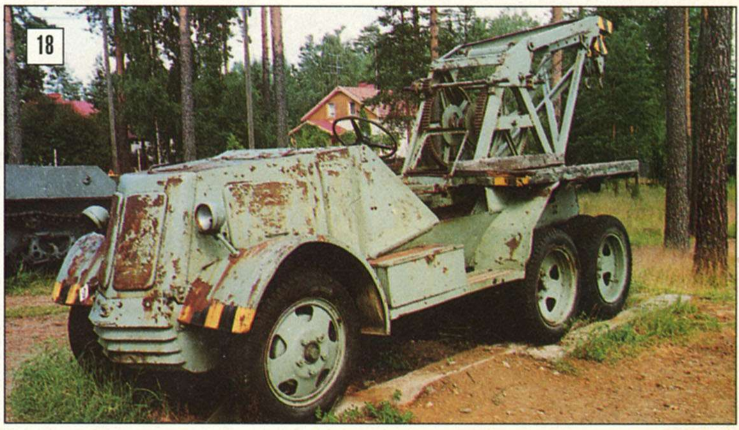

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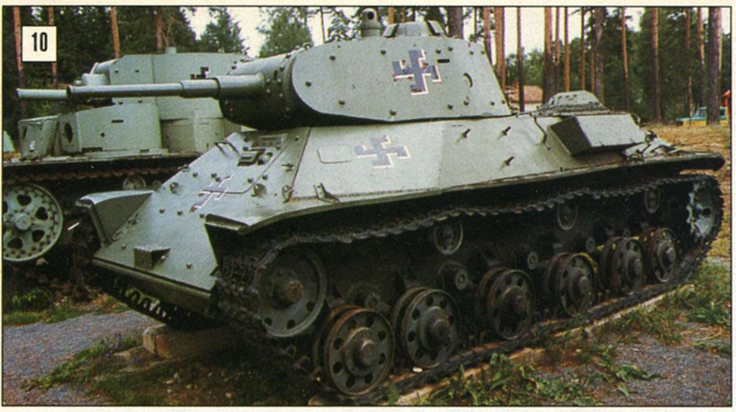

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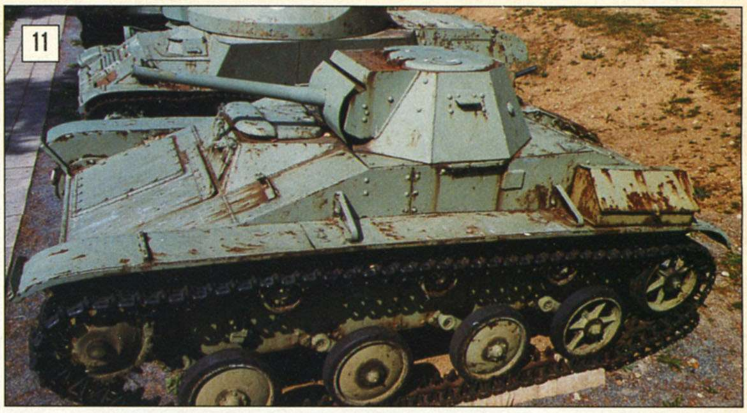

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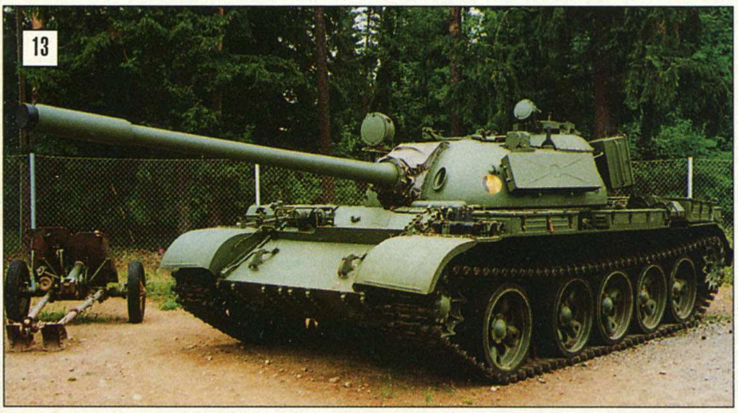

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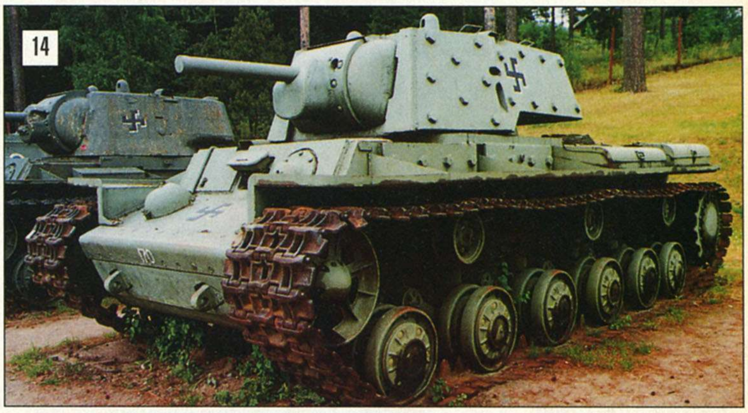

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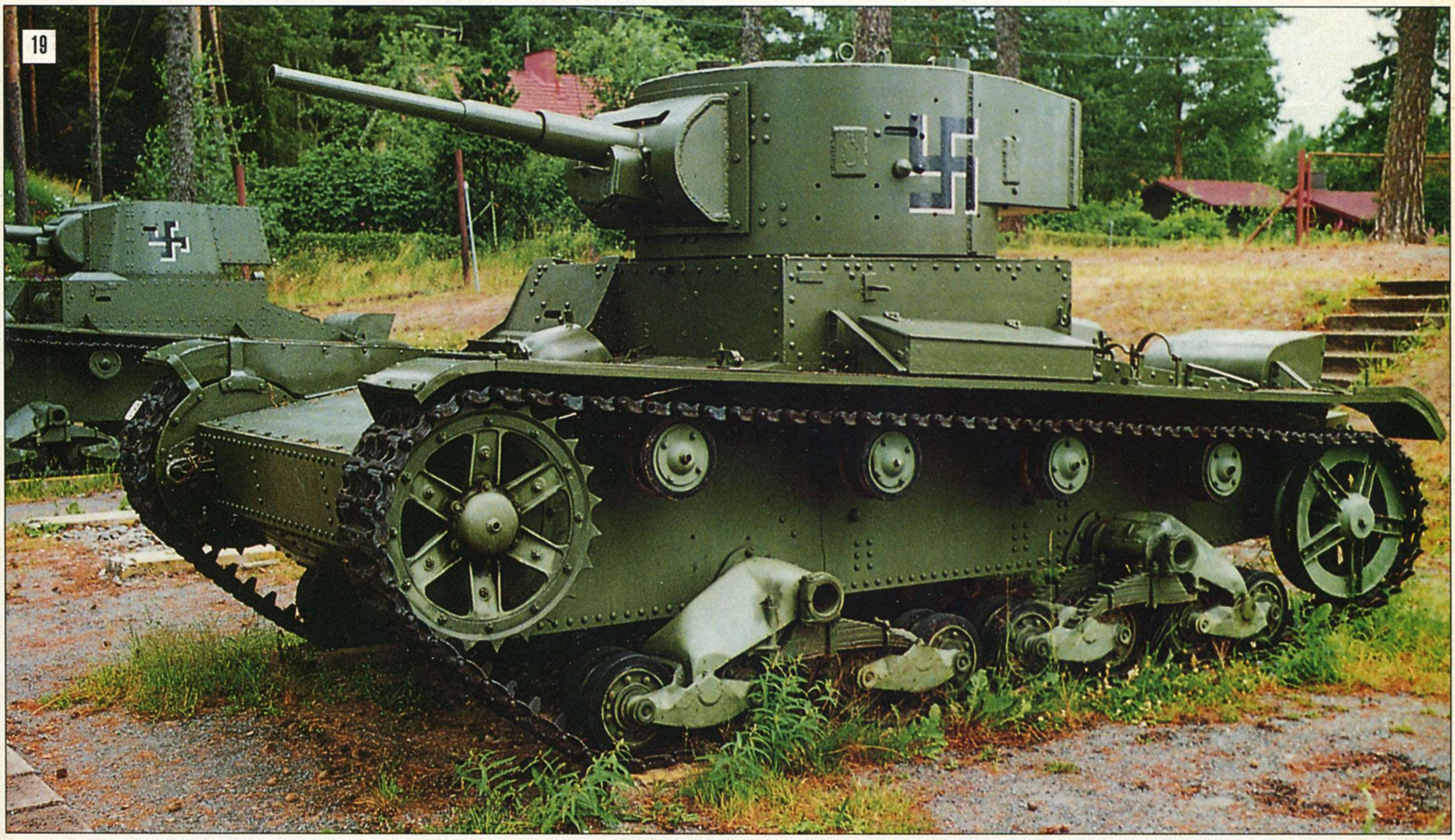

8. Displayed inside, the Russian sporty BA-20M displays the Finnish Hakaristi national markings used on armour between 1940-1944. ***9.*** *This Soviet T28M fell into Finnish hands early in the 'Continuation War'.* ***10.*** *A rare example of the Russian T50 a vehicle so costly and complex that only 63 examples were built. It was known to its crews as 'Little Klim' because of its similarity to the KV1 heavy tank.* ***11.*** *Despite improvements to its power plant and armour this late version T60 was completely outclassed by opposing German AFVs.* ***12.*** *A sight to greet the motorist approaching Parola is a complete armoured train.* ***13.*** *An immaculate ex-East German army version of the Soviet T55.* ***14.*** *The ferocity of the Finns in combat caused GAU Chief Kulik to order additional appliqué to be added to the KV1 'E' series.* ***15.*** *Following the capture of this KV1 by the Finns most of its damaged 'spoked' cast wheels were replaced with the early pattern running gear, a configuration not normally seen on the KV1 1942 model.* ***16.*** *Parola's ISU 152 was modified to Finnish military specifications after its capture and soldiered on in the post war army.* ***17.*** *The Finns captured large numbers of the tiny STZ Komsomolets and used them as anti-tank gun tractors. This rare vehicle escaped being used for agricultural purposes or the gunnery ranges.* ***18.*** *The archaic-looking BA-10M - a recovery vehicle made by adding a crane to a cut down Soviet BA-10 armoured car.*

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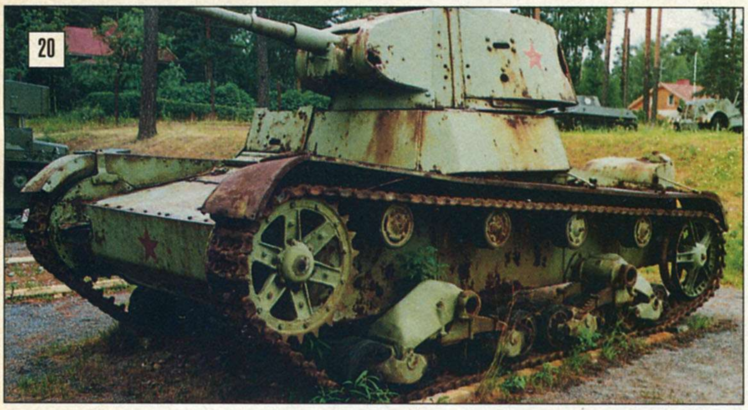

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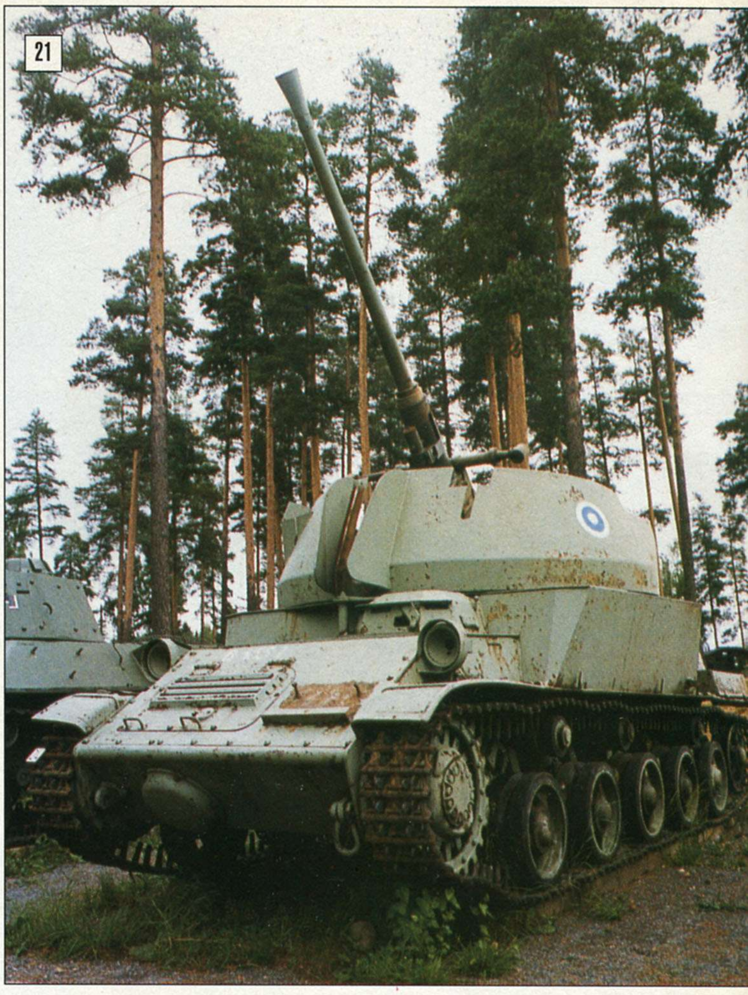

__19__. Captured Soviet T26Bs were used by the Finns. __20__. This captured example of the T26S appears to retain its original Soviet paint scheme and red star on the glacis. It certainly wasn't repainted in the darker green used by the Finns on the Museum's T26B. __21__. In 1943 the Finns purchased 10 of these ITPSV 40 Landsverk anti-aircraft tanks from Sweden. __22__. The Finns purchased 30 Sturmgeschütz III Ausf G from Germany (Bob Fleming has one of these built by Alkett in 1942). The Finns called the StuG III the 'Sturmis' and used it to great effect against Soviet armour. A single Sturmis commanded by Corporal Soimali destroyed 10 T34s and a JSU 152. This Ausf G has a cast mantlet and Finnish additions. __23__. A StuG III Ausf G with a bolted mantlet has bolted on appliqué armour and some fittings added by the Finns such as the cowl over the driver's vision port. __24__. One of the StuG III Ausf G (cast mantlet) is kept inside. This vehicle is most probably a runner. __25__. The BT-42 was an attempt by the Finns to provide fire support for their 4.5 inch guns by fitting these to locally manufactured turrets mounted on some of their captured Soviet BT7 tanks. __26__. The Finns added their own fittings to captured T34s. This T34/76 has an interesting muzzle brake fitted to its gun. __27__. Captured T34/85 with very large Finnish turret marking. __28__. Inadequate firepower and armour placed the T70 Light Tank almost in the same class as its predecessor the T60. The gun is missing from this example. __29__. Only the original chassis of the Soviet T38 remains on this exhibit. The superstructure and dummy gun added by the Finns appears to indicate further use as a training vehicle. __30__. A Vickers Carden Loyd Model 1933 light tank. __31__. Vickers Carden Loyd Mark VI.

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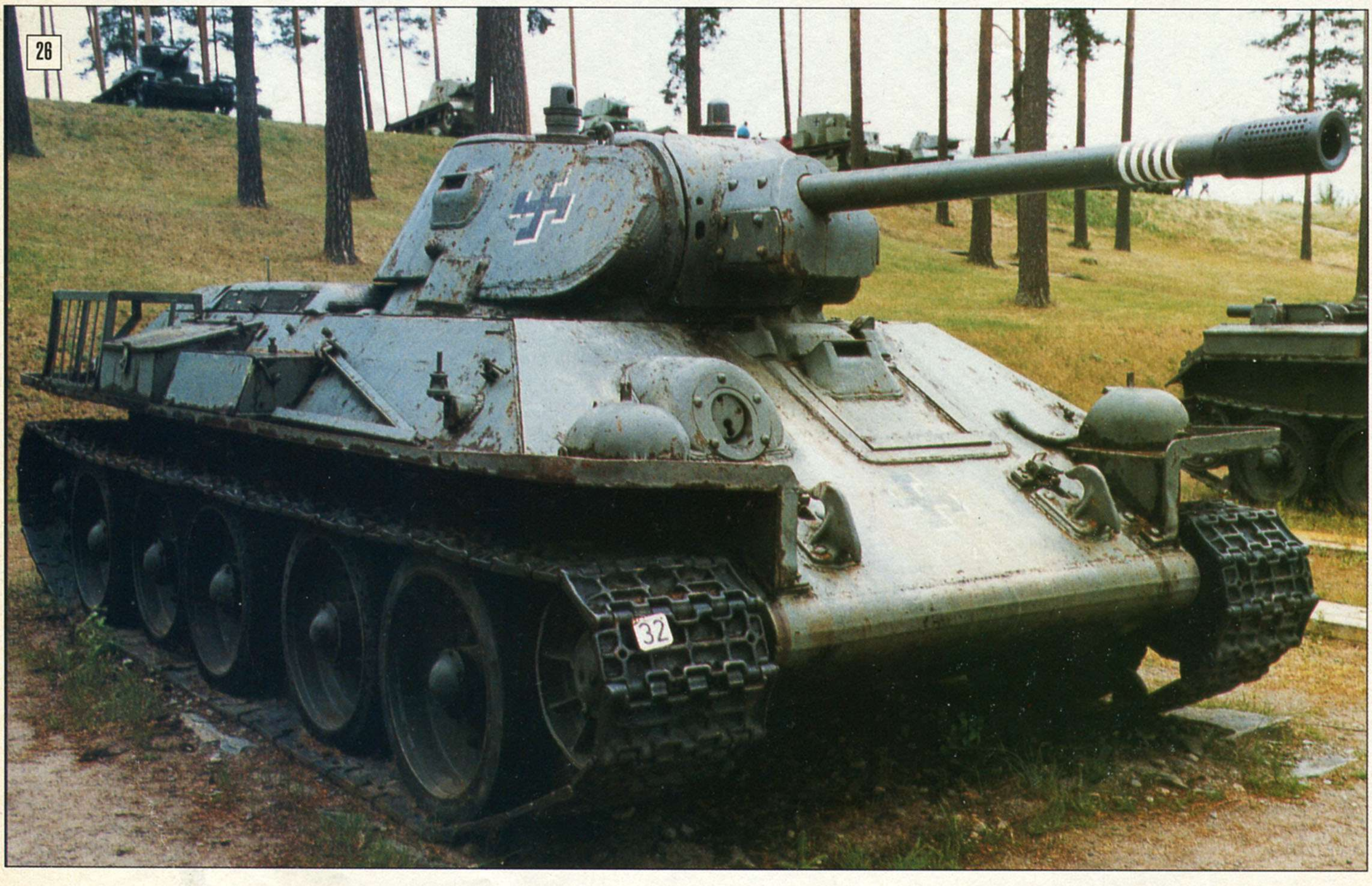

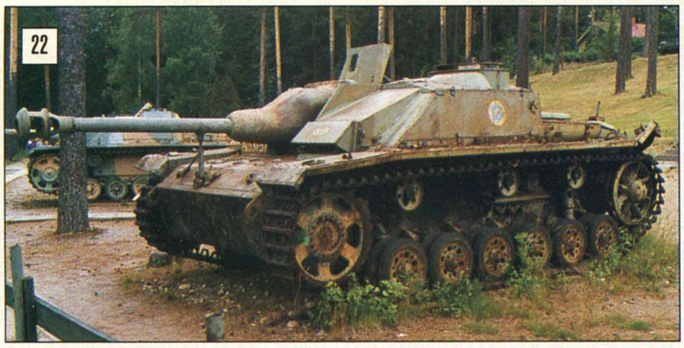
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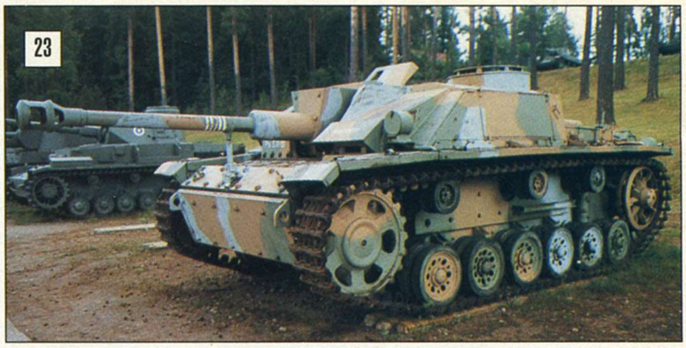
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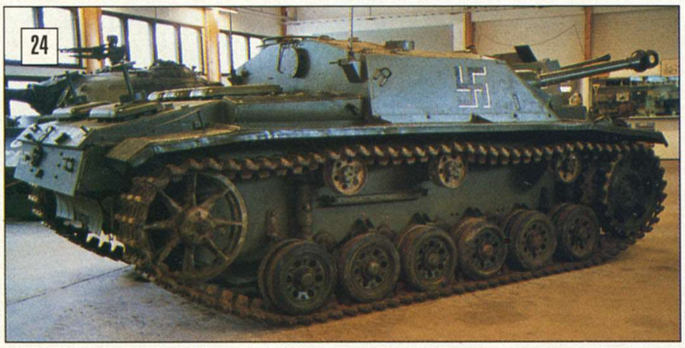
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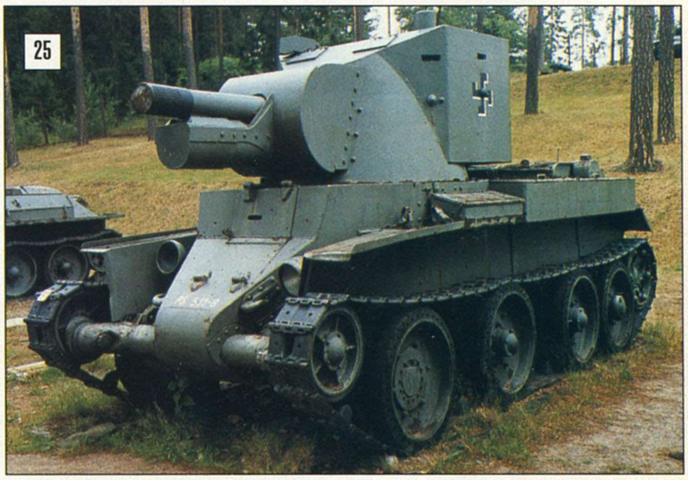
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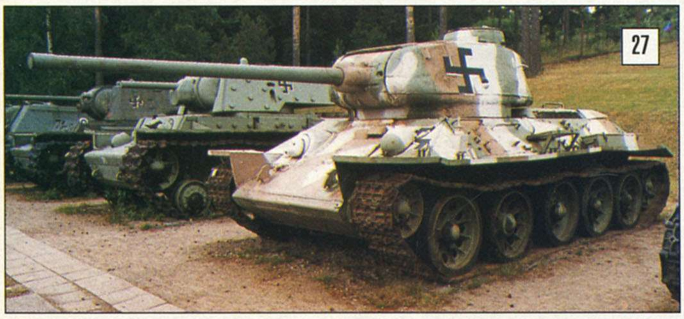
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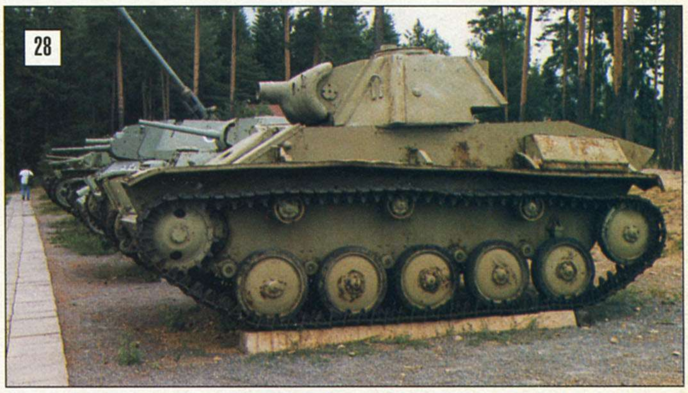
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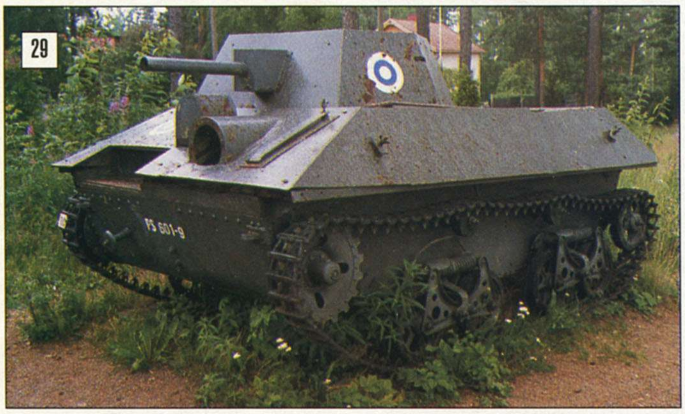
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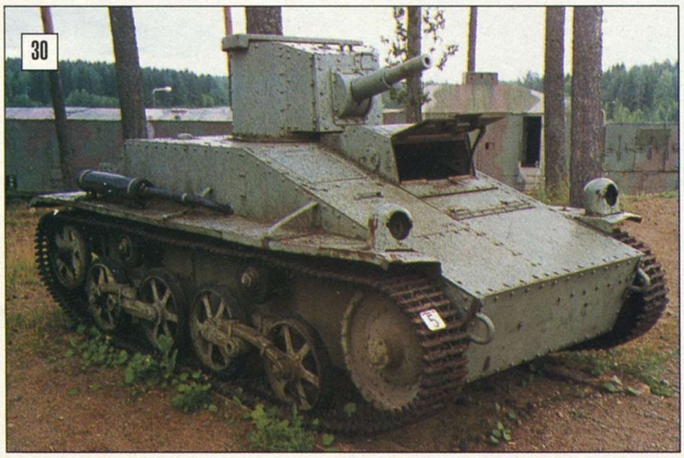
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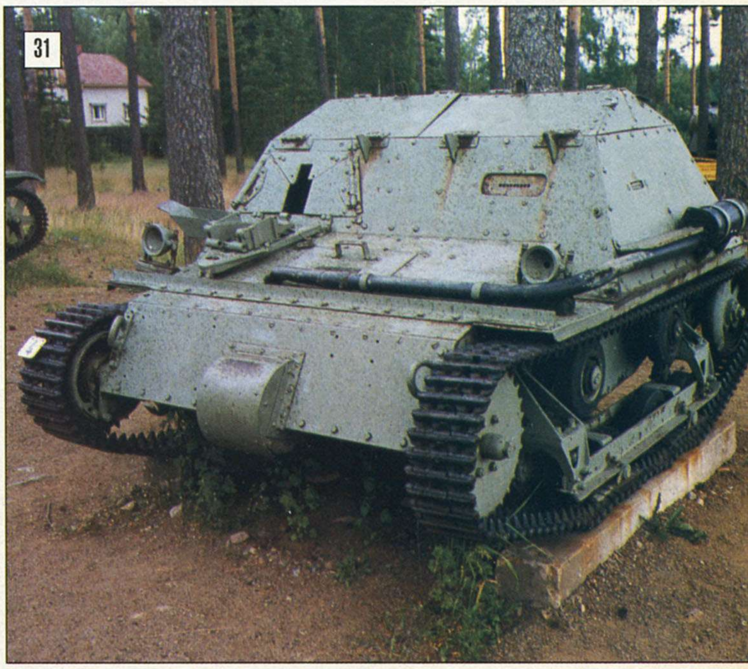
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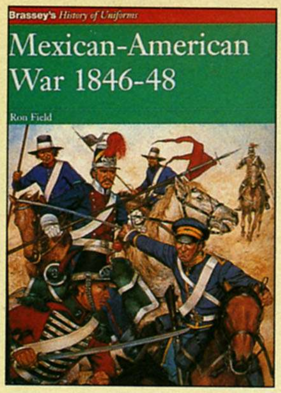
ON PARADE

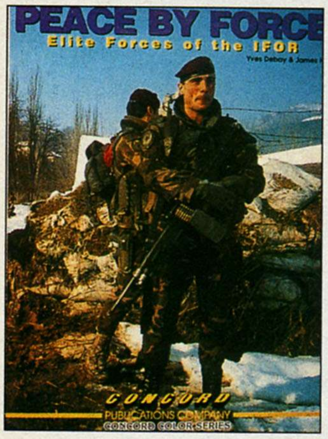
BOOKS & VIDEOS REVIEWED



Mexican-American War 1846-48, Ron Field. Brassey's Ltd., 33 John Street, London WC1N 2AT. ISBN 1-85753-210-4 (hardcover). Price £18.95.
Brassey's History of Uniforms series is expanding and the latest title covers the not too well-documented Mexican American War of the 1840s. Author Ron Field really knows his stuff and combined with illustrator Richard Hook's super colour illustrations, along with some really early photographs from the 1845-46 period, and full colour photographs of surviving uniforms and artefacts the book offers an excellent balance of text and illustrations.

The book is divided into two halves - Part 1 covers the US Forces and Part 2 the Mexicans. These are further sub-divided into US Regular Army, Navy and Marines and Volunteers; Mexican Army, Mexican Regular Army and Mexican Militia and National Guard.

Excellent reference work for modellers and wargamers.
K.M.J.



Peace by Force, Elite Forces of the IFOR, Yves Debay & James Hill. Concord Publications Available in the UK from Greenhill Books, Park House, 1 Russell Gardens, London NW11 9NN. ISBN 962-361729-1. Price £14.99.
A new addition to the Concord Color Series, this paperback book is packed with colour photographs from cover to cover of the different forces, NATO and non-NATO countries, from the many countries that make up IFOR (International Force) in Bosnia. Elite in the sub-title is a bit of a misnomer, because all 'types' are featured, not just 'paras' and others considered to be 'elite' forces.

The pictures will make ideal references for modellers of miniature figures and military vehicles. Such a book can't hope to be totally comprehensive but there's a lot packed in between these covers, and like most Concord books, it's good value for what you get in the way of solid photographic reference material.

For once, 'the good old Brits' get a fair crack of the whip with around 14 out of the total of 96 pages, illustrated devoted to good shots of soldiers and their Warriors, Challengers, Scimitars, Sabres, and Saxons and AS90s of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, the Queen's Royal Hussars and The Royal Artillery.
K.M.J.

Stalin's Heavy Tanks 1941-1945, Steven J. Zaloga, Jim Kinnear, Andrey Aksenov & Aleksandr Koshchavtsev, Concord Publications Available in the UK from Greenhill Books, Park House, 1 Russell Gardens, London NW11 9NN. ISBN 962-361-616-3. Price £12.99.
A new title from Concord on the Klimenti Voroshilov and Joseph Stalin heavy tanks, Stalin's Heavy Tanks 1941-1945 has been produced by quite a distinguished team of authors who have come up with a lot of refreshingly new photographs on the Soviet heavies. There is also a colour section featuring 16 profiles of assorted 'heavies'.

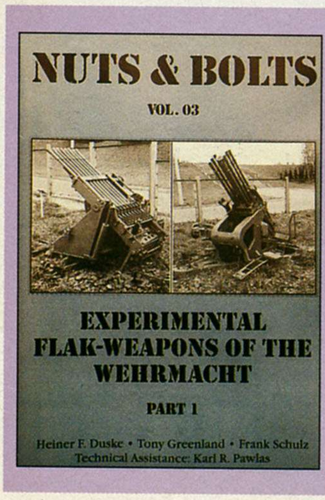
I don't think I've seen such a good selection, anywhere, of pictures on the KV and IS types (there's even a couple of British Churchill Mark III in amongst them!) plus the associated assault guns under one cover in this value for money publication . Granted, some of the pictures have been seen in this essentially photo-led publication, but the majority haven't been published before in 'the West'. Since glasnost information a'plenty has come from the former Soviet Union and today's authors/modellers have a much better equipped 'arsenal' to draw on than those trying to get details in the 'early days'. Thankfully, the whole picture of Soviet armour is now being rewritten for everyone's benefit
K.M.J.

$19.95
PANZER TRACTS No.4
Panzerkampfwagen IV
- Grosstraktor to Panzerbefehlswagen IV -
Assembled by Thomas L. Jentz
Scale Prints by Hilary Louis Doyle

Panzer Tracts No.4. Panzerkampfwagen IV - Grosstraktor to Panzerbefehlswagen IV, Thomas L. Jentz Scale drawings by Hilary Louis Doyle. Darlington Productions Inc., PO Box 5884 , Darlington, Maryland 21034, USA. ISBN 0-9648793-4-4. Price $19.95.
All you need to know on the German PzKpfw IV and its progenitors in a handy paperback book with lots of data, pictures and scale drawings of each variant by Hilary Doyle. Each variant is described and illustrated with photographs and scale drawings plus a complete set of specifications which have been printed in a typewriter type face for some reason or other. However, this does not detract, but attracts the reader to the comprehensive data sections. Some of the pictures have been 'seen' before but the majority will be refreshingly new to many.

German armour fans and modellers will find this book's essential info content irresistible. If you buy it direct from the US add $2 surface mail; $4 airmail. US orders are $1.75 extra per book.
K.M.J.

Military Ordnance Specials, Darlington Productions Inc., PO Box 5884 , Darlington, Maryland 21034, USA. Price $7.95.
Three new titles have been released in the popular Military Ordnance Specials series from Darlington Productions, publishers of the excellent *Boresight* magazine - No.19 Sherman Vc M4A4 'Firefly' by David Fletcher; No.20 IS-3 Stalin Heavy Tank by Steven J. Zaloga; No.21 YPR 765 in Dutch Service by Gerard van Oosbree. These 24-page soft cover publications are excellent references for modellers, Dragon having produced a 1:35 scale Sherman 'Firefly' and Tamiya a 1:35 scale IS-3, and both titles have been written by authors who 'know their stuff'. A good mix of photographs and line illustrations for anyone building the kits. The, perhaps not-so-well-known Dutch YPR765, a much improved derivative of the US M-113 APC, is given the full photographic treatment and redresses the balance of paucity of information on this armoured fighting vehicle. Good value for money publications.
K.M.J.

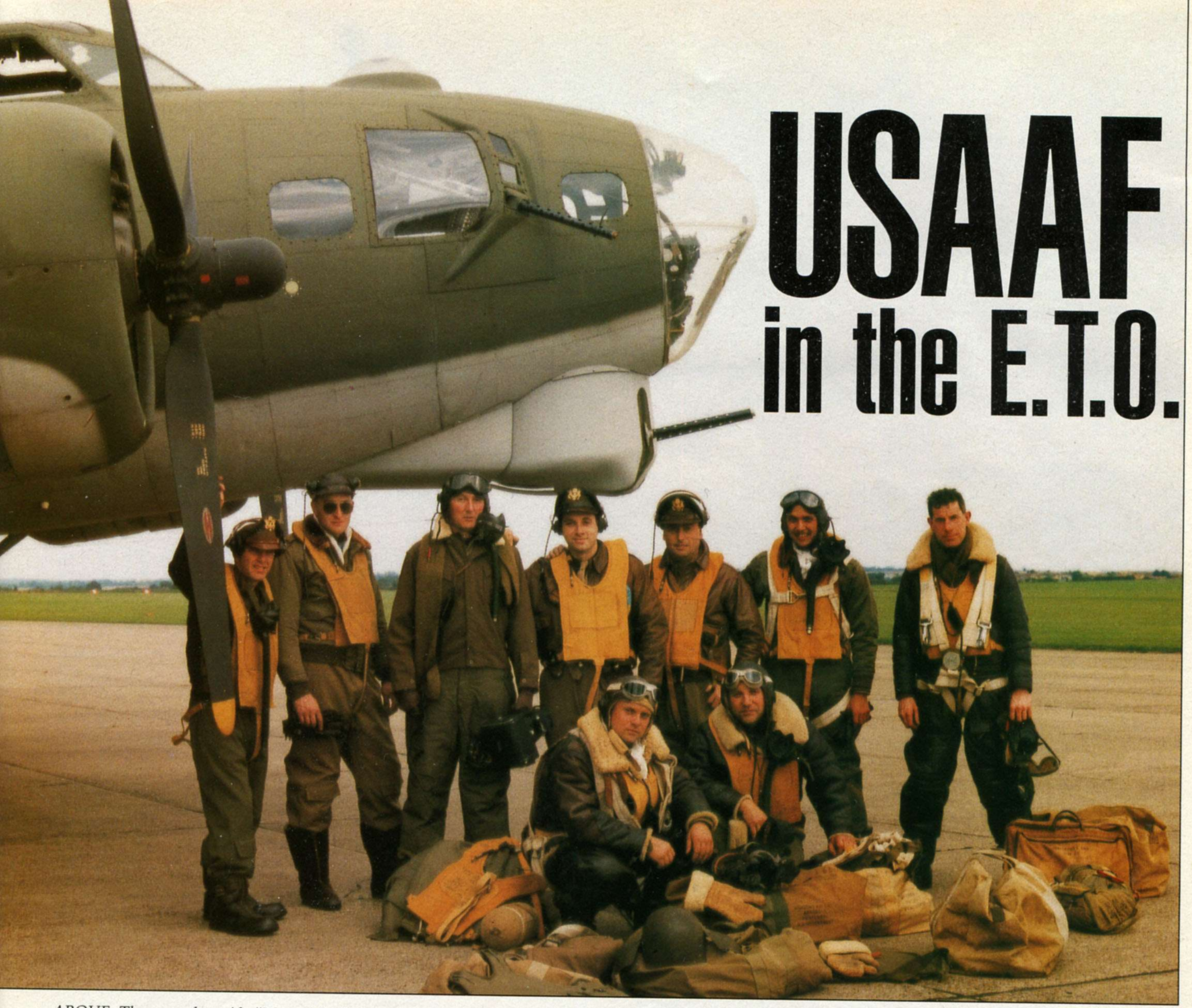

NUTS & BOLTS
VOL. 03
EXPERIMENTAL FLAK-WEAPONS OF THE WEHRMACHT
PART 1
Heiner F. Duske • Tony Greenland • Frank Schulz
Technical Assistance: Karl R. Pawlas

Nuts & Bolts Vol.3, Experimental Flak-Weapons of the Wehrmacht Part 1, Heiner F. Duske, Tony Greenland and Frank Schulz with Technical Assistance from Karl R. Pawlas. Frank Schulz, Müllerstrasse 6, 29525 Uelzen, Germany. Price £8.50 + 50p p&p from Historex
The very unusual and, hitherto, virtually unknown Salvenmaschinenkanonen or multi-barrelled, (eight barrels), 20mm anti-aircraft guns form the subject of the first part of this new Nuts & Bolts title.

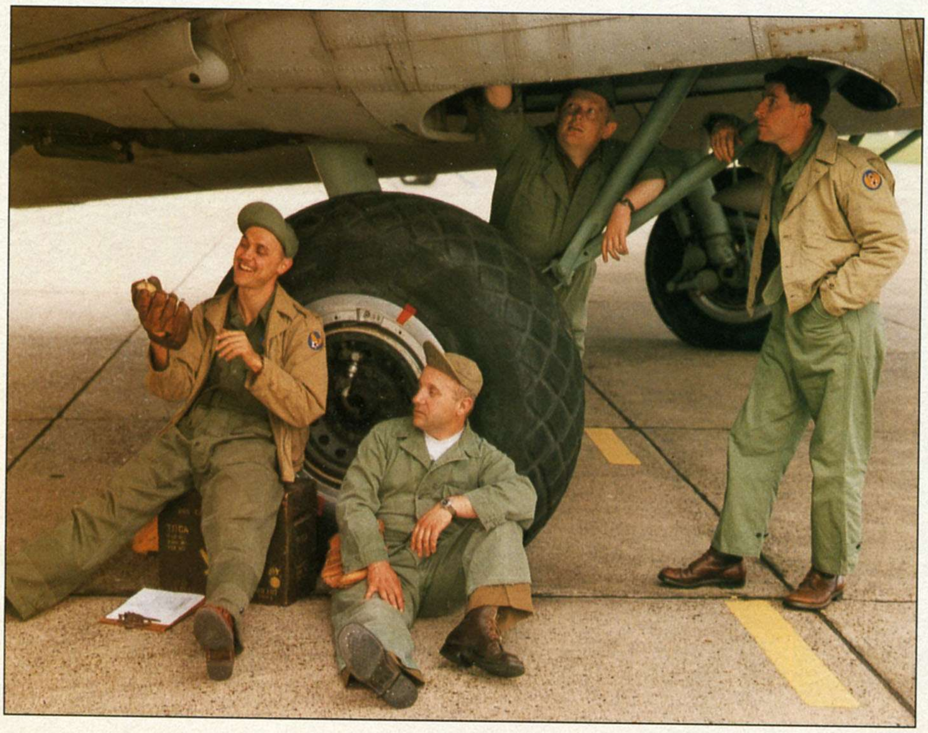
The weapons were found in Moscow, Russia and feature in the multitude of black and white pictures in this book along with some 1:35 scale drawings by John Rue. Good news is that New Connections, the German model company will release 1:35 scale model kits of the guns in this year and next. Not much is known about these weapons, but this latest Nuts & Bolts redresses that deficit somewhat.

Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ have stocks of Vol.3 and can supply by mail order.
K.M.J.

USAAF in the E.T.O.



ABOVE: The crew alongside "Mary Alice". A varied selection of typical flying clothing is visible here including B3/A3 shearling suits, B10/A9 alpaca lined suits and the ever popular A2 leather jacket. In the foreground is a variety of Air Force issue flight bags, used for carrying the crew's equipment and personal effects. BELOW: USAAF ground crewmen 'take five' alongside their charge. They wear a selection of Army issue clothing including HBT coveralls and M-1941 field jackets with G.I. service shoes in russet brown leather. Their headgear the is Air Force issue A3 cap with its characteristic long peak, invariably worn pushed back like this!



Ian Phillips describes aircrew flight clothing worn by the United States Army Air Force during 1942-1945 in the European Theatre of Operations. Seimon Pugh-Jones took the photographs at the Imperial War Museum's Duxford Airfield site in and around the Boeing B-17G 'Mary Alice' for this reconstruction

On 17th August, 1942, twelve B-17 bombers of the USAAF's 8th Air Force conducted their first daylight raid over Rouen, in German occupied France. Damage to the targets was slight and all planes returned to base safely, having encountered relatively light opposition.

As raids go, it was a mere pin-prick, but a hugely significant one because it signalled the beginning of the US Eighth Air Force's daylight strategic bombing campaign against enemy targets on mainland Europe. Over the next two and a half years, American ▶

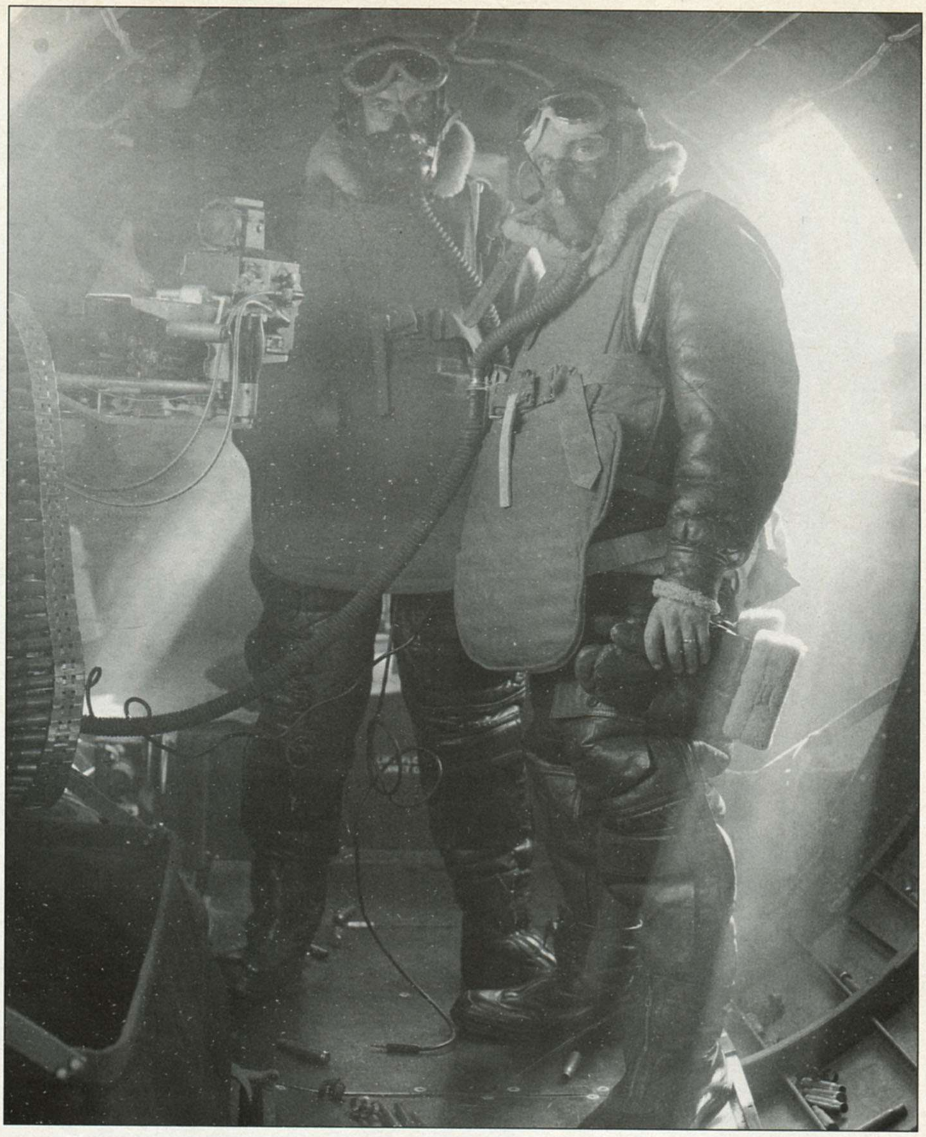
logistic resources would build up 'The Mighty Eighth' into the most formidable aerial weapon the world had ever seen and its contribution to the ultimate defeat of Nazi Germany cannot be over estimated.

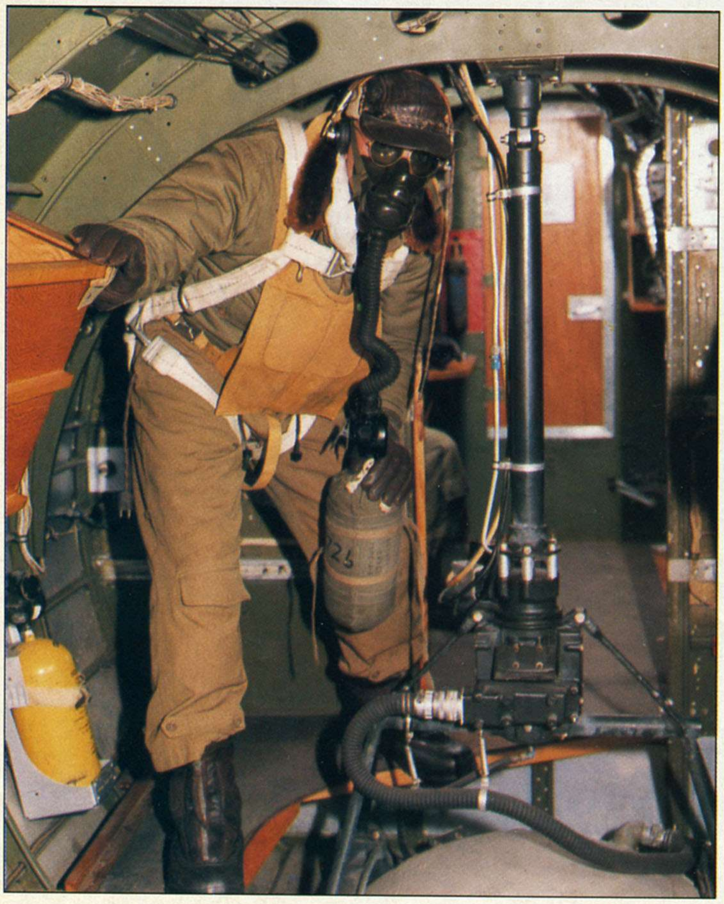
Priorities

Following America's entry into the Second World War in the wake of the surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, 7th December, 1941, the principal Allied powers concluded that the defeat of Nazi Germany should be their priority. The Japanese, it was agreed, could be contained and dealt with decisively later when the expected eventual defeat of Germany would allow for the transfer of men and material from the European Theatre of Operations (E.T.O.) to the Pacific. However, even the most optimistic of planners could not foresee on Allied invasion of occupied Europe before late 1944 because of the time needed to train and amass the forces and equipment necessary for such a mammoth undertaking.

Air power

Thus, there was potentially a two year period of 'limbo' when Germany could retain the initiative and consolidate its ill-gotten gains. However, there was a means of taking the war to the enemy in the meantime, and that means was air power! The Germans themselves had, unsuccessfully, tried to hasten the defeat of the beleagued British through the use of air power during the 'Battle of Britain' in the Summer of 1940. Nevertheless, much damage had been done to British towns, cities and installations during the Blitz and many valuable lessons had been learned. Subsequently, the RAF's Bomber Command had responded with a campaign of night-time strategic bombing raids over Germany, including Berlin itself.

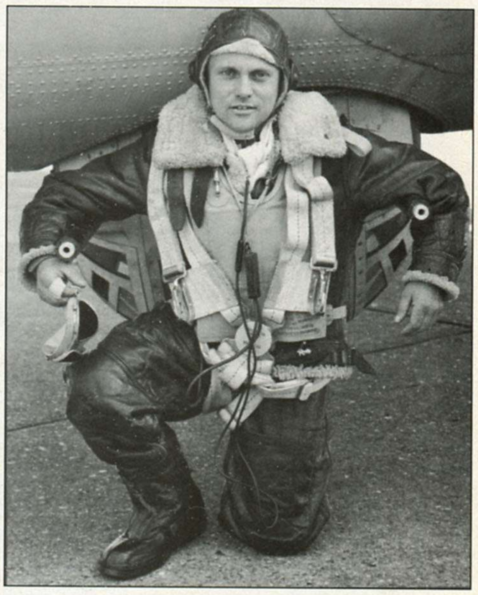




ABOVE: Waist gunners wearing body armour.

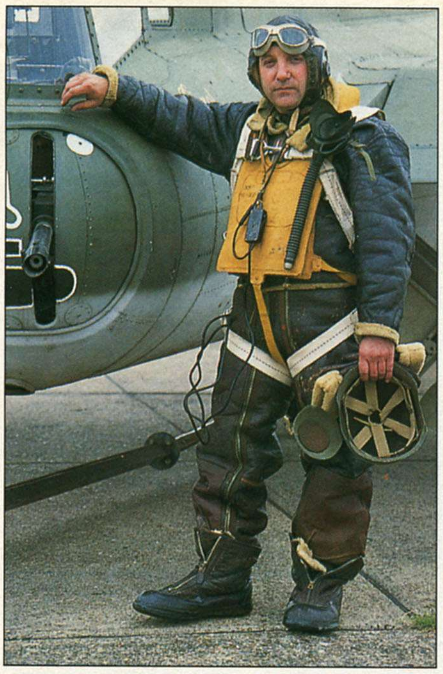
RIGHT: Ball turret gunner.

LEFT: Crewman wearing the alpaca lined B10/A9 flying suit which was designed to replace the earlier shearling types. As he has left his station, he is carrying a portable oxygen bottle which is connected up to his type A-14 demand oxygen mask. He wears a B-2 shearling cap.

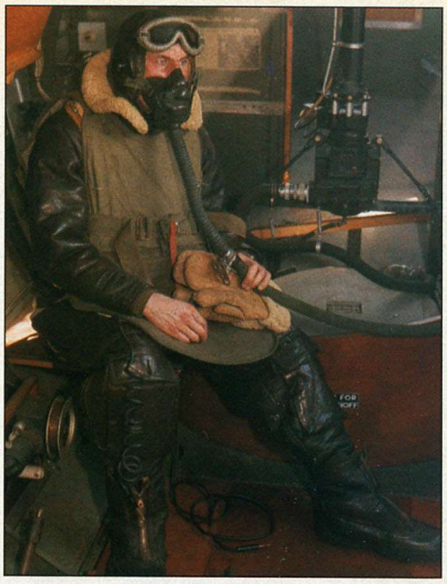


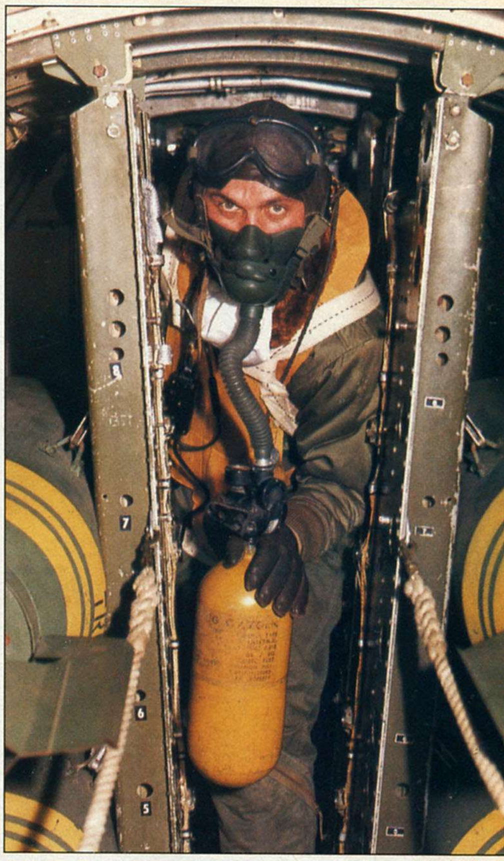
High level bombing

The vanguard of the American Air Forces arrived in the UK in 1942 espousing their own theories about the strategic bombing of enemy targets. They favoured bombing accurately, from high altitude, in daylight. This technique was deemed to be possible due to their 'state-of-the-art' Norden bombsight, which, it was claimed, would enable the bombardier to drop his bombs right into the proverbial 'pickle barrel!'



The rear gunner wears the B3/A3 shearling jacket and trousers with A6 flying shoes. On his head is an A-11 flying helmet and AN-6530 goggles. The oxygen mask is an A-10. Worn over his 'Mae West' is the harness for his B-9 parachute with its quick release buckle. This photo affords a good view of the interior of the M3 flak helmet.





ABOVE: This shot clearly illustrates the protection afforded to the waist gunner by his M1/M3 body armour combination. Note the heavy "trigger finger" shearling gunners' gloves and the extension hose clamped to his A-14 oxygen mask. The pendulous support for the Sperry ball turret is immediately behind him. RIGHT: A crew member carefully negotiates the narrow catwalk through the B-17's bomb bay, no easy task when clad in bulky flying clothes and carrying a portable oxygen bottle!

Thus, the build up of American Air Forces in Britain continued apace with scores of new airfields being constructed across a great swathe of eastern England, within bombing range of mainland Europe. At its peak, Britain was likened to a huge aircraft carrier anchored off the European coastline!

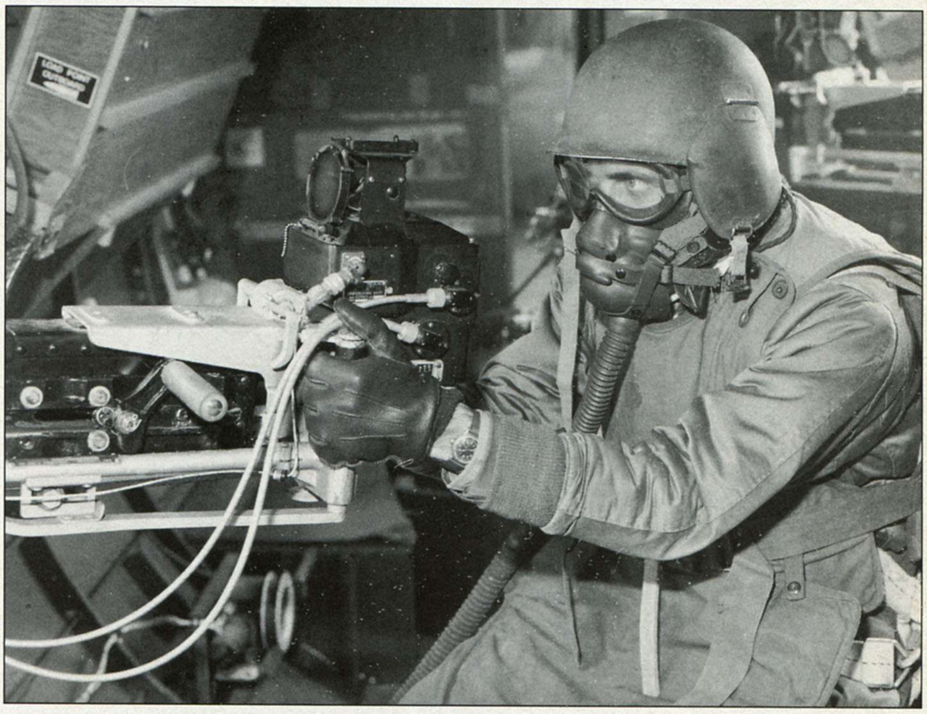
Round the clock bombing

Gradually, a pattern of round-the-clock bombing evolved with the USAAF bombing by day and the RAF by night. Weather permitting, huge aerial armadas were assembled almost daily and sent out to rain down death and destruction upon the *Reich* and to draw the *Luftwaffe* up into a battle of attrition. It was a new type of warfare fought in a hostile environment and losses were inevitably high. The principal American bombers were B-17 Flying Fortresses and B-24 Liberators, each carrying crews of around 10 men. Therefore if, for example, 20 planes were lost during the course of a mission, that equated to some 200 airmen, and with such missions being conducted daily, the grim mathematics speak for themselves.

For the air crews on their tour of duty (initially 25 combat missions, but later increased to 50 as losses mounted) it was a strange kind of existence. At 0600 hrs they could be breakfasting on bacon and eggs in the mess, at 1100 hrs fighting off enemy planes over the *Reich*, and by 2000 hrs, perhaps enjoying a pint of (warm!) British wartime beer and a game of darts at the local pub. In effect, a kind of 'commuter warfare'.

Flying Clothing and Equipment

From the outset, it had been America's avowed intent to make its armed forces the best-equipped in the world. Nowhere was this more evident than in the field of aviation. Huge financial and technological resources were devoted to the research and development of aviation clothing and equipment during the war years. Many innovations and advances were made, whilst other items did not get beyond the experimental stage, often because they were ahead of their time! The range was so great that it is really beyond the scope of an article like this to even attempt to itemise them. Readers wishing to delve further into this fascinating subject are referred to the more scholarly studies listed at the end of this article.

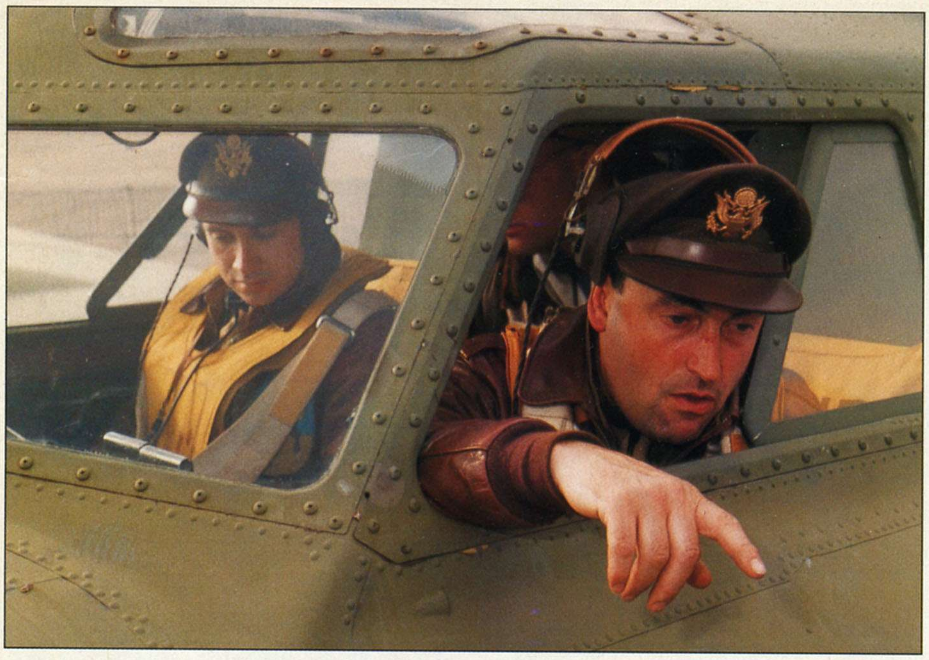


Port side waist gunner wearing body armour and the M3 flak helmet.

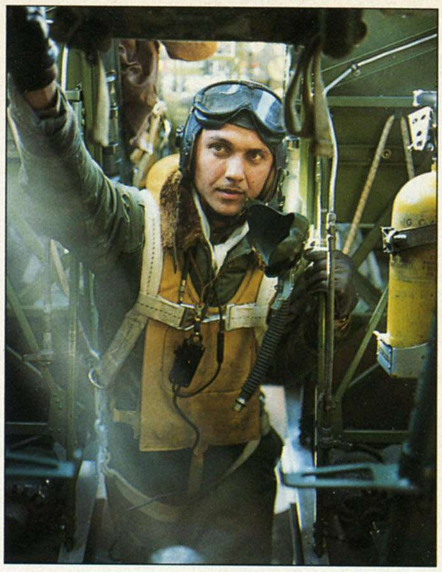
The popular perception of USAAF airmen of WWII owes much to the images created by various Hollywood movies in the post war era, where dashing young pilots wearing 'crusher caps', headsets, sunglasses and leather jackets, etc., abound! Of course, such clothing was worn, where appropriate, but it bears little resemblance to what the average airman actually wore in combat in the skies over war torn Europe.

Best equipped

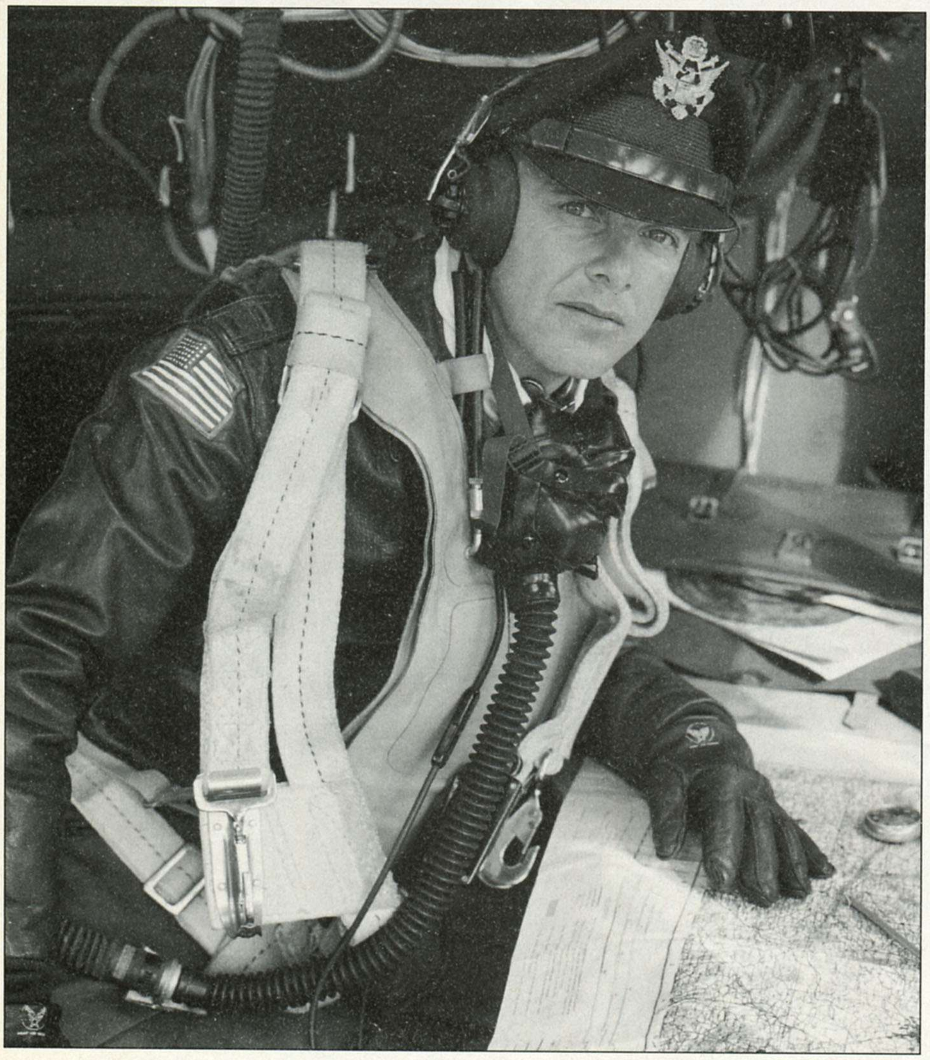
American bomber fleets routinely flew at altitudes of 25-30,000 feet above the earth. Here, the air is thin, necessitating the use of oxygen. Also, at such an altitude, temperatures can drop to -60°F, necessitating the wearing of suitably insulated clothing. Without either of these an airman would die from a combination of oxygen starvation and hypothermia. Furthermore, a combat airman has to perform his duties efficiently, in conditions ▶

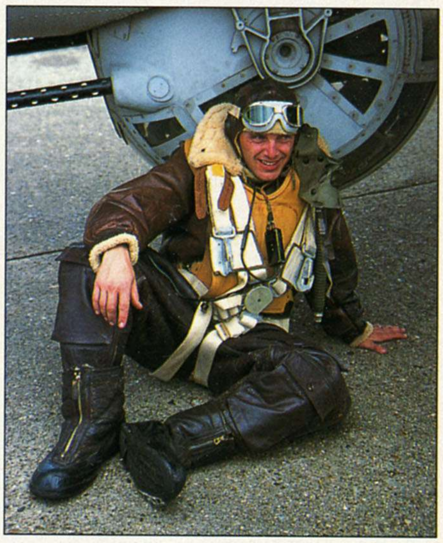


ABOVE: "Chocks away!". The archetypal USAAF pilot/co-pilot can be seen here in the cockpit of their B-17. Both wear officers' "crusher caps" with HS-18 headsets. USAAF officers were permitted to remove the spring stiffeners from their service caps in order that headsets could be worn like this - a purely practical adaptation which became an Air Force trade mark. Both men wear the popular A-2 summer flying jacket, made of russet leather with wool knit cuffs and waistband. The yellow 'Mae West' was worn on all flights which ventured over water. BELOW: Navigator at his table in the nose.



ABOVE: A Lieutenant wearing an A-11 flying helmet with B-8 goggles and an A-2 leather jacket over his AN 6550 flying suit negotiates his way from the navigator's and bombardier's stations in the nose via a narrow opening into the compartment just behind the pilots' seats.
BELOW: Ball turret gunner. The position offered a good all round field of fire for the turret's twin .50 cal machine-gun.



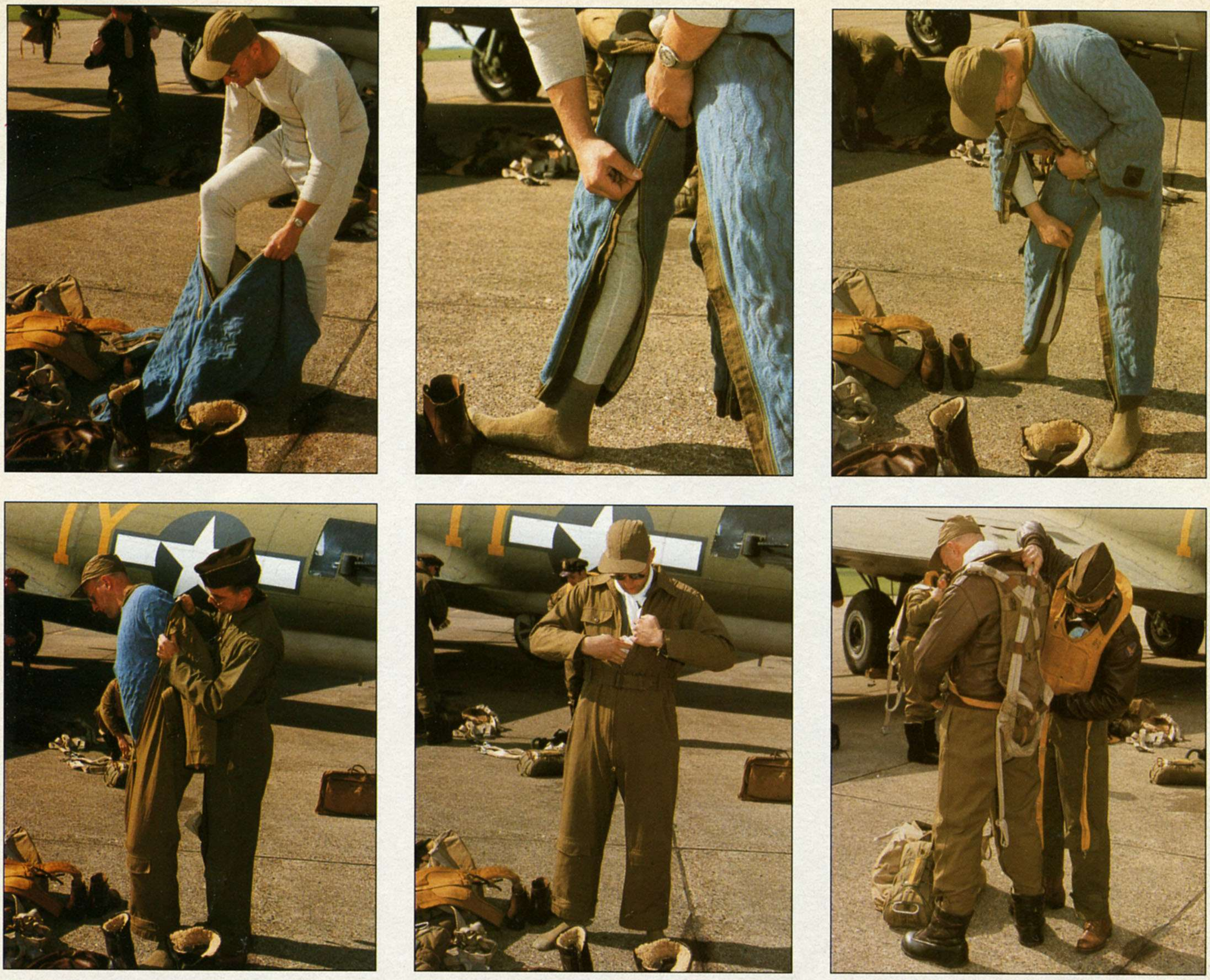


of great stress within the confines of a cramped, aircraft fuselage. Consequently, aviation equipment designers had to come up with a range of clothing and equipment which met and exceeded all of these criteria. On acceptance for service, these items would then need to be mass-produced quickly and in sufficiently large quantities. Fortunately, American technology and industry were up to the challenge and thus, USAAF airmen were the best-equipped of any Air Force during WWII.

Part of the Army

It should not be forgotten that, at this time, the Air Forces were still a part of the US Army. Therefore, standard Army type clothing and equipment were issued to USAAF personnel, particularly in terms of service dress and fatigue clothing, etc. However, there were of course many Air Force specific items such as flying clothing and related equipment. Such items were marked accordingly on their stock control labels, e.g. 'Property, Air Forces, U.S. Army' and often bore an ink-stamped or small decal-type version of the AAF's familiar winged star insignia.

Also, it is worth noting that, despite the Americans' overall self-sufficiency and logistical superiority, relatively large quantities of RAF flying kit were issued to USAAF personnel, particularly in the 1942-43 period when the Americans were still building up their forces. Thus, it is not unusual to see mixed British/American kit in contemporary photographs. Favoured items were British Type 'C' flying helmets, Mark VIII goggles, various gloves and gauntlets along with sheepskin-lined flying boots and the 1943 'Escape Pattern' boots with their removable uppers.



This sequence of shots illustrates how the F-1, electrically heated 'Bunny suit' was worn over the long woollen underwear and beneath an AN-6550 flight suit. The thick shearling lining of the A-6 flying shoes can clearly be seen here. The final layer is an A-2 leather jacket, topped off with an A-3 HBT peaked cap.

Shearling clothing

Ever since man had first taken to the air in cold, open cockpits, heavy leather and/or shearling clothing was generally regarded as the most effective means of keeping warm in flight.

Thus, in the inter-war years, a variety of shearling based garments had been developed and introduced for use with the then US Army Air Corps. At the time of America's entry into WWII the standard, high altitude clothing for airmen comprised of the B3 shearling jacket with its matching A-3 shearling trousers. This clothing is characterised by its dark brown lacquered finish which had a tendency to crack and craze with wear and tear.

Although warm, these shearling items were heavy and cumbersome to wear, particularly within the confines of a ball turret! Furthermore, such clothing, although warm, needed to be supplemented by additional layers of clothing to withstand the extremely low temperatures experienced at high altitude. Consequently, no airman would venture aloft without a set of long woollen underwear, several pairs of socks, an Olive Drab (o.d.) wool shirt and trousers, plus a one piece flight suit, beneath the B3/A3 combination. These extra layers, although providing the necessary warmth also, inevitably, contributed to the generally cumbersome nature of the flying clothing. An important innovation which went some way toward alleviating this problem was the introduction of heated flying suits and accessories such as glove and shoe inserts.

Heated suits

Perhaps the best known of these was the distinctive, pale blue, F-1 'Bunny Suit', a one piece, zippered wool suit, into which was woven a series of electrical wires which heated up when the suit was plugged in to the aircraft's electrical system. Initially, failure rates were high because if one wire broke, the whole system failed. Understandably, the airmen mistrusted these suits because of this design fault and many continued to wear their multiple layers as a fail-safe! However, continued development resulted in the much more reliable, two piece F-3 heated flying suit which had improved circuitry and a much lower failure rate.

All-new flying suit

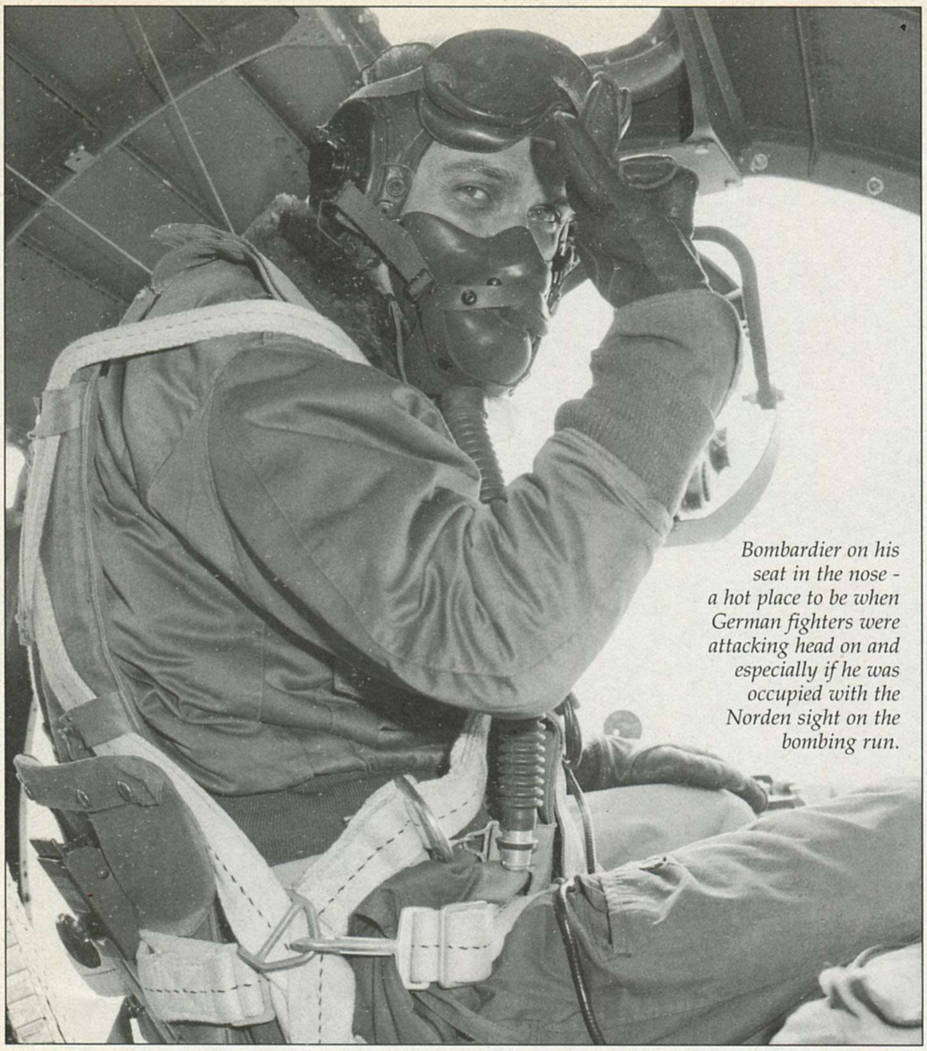
Shearling, as has been noted, had its drawbacks and was also very expensive to procure. This led to the design and adoption of an all-new flying suit in 1943, namely the 'intermediate' B-10 jacket and A-9 trouser combination. The outer shells of these garments were of tightly woven, o.d. cotton, lined with a wool/alpaca pile. The jacket featured a generous, brown mouton collar, patch pockets and knitted waistband and cuffs. The trousers were lined, and high waisted, with suspenders (braces), and featured three prominent flap-closed pockets, two on the right leg and one on the left. This suit was designed to be worn, if necessary, over a heated flying suit like the F-2.

The B-10/A-9 combination was further developed and evolved into the B-15/A-11 flying suit. The B-15 jacket followed the same basic lines as the B-10, but had a more generous collar and slanted, internally hung pockets. A small 'pencil pocket' was also added to the left sleeve.

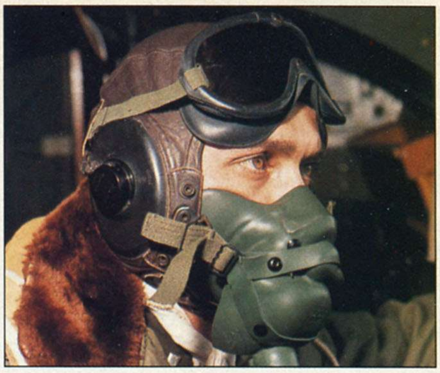
The A-11 trousers featured full length zippers on each leg for easy donning and/or removal. There were small snap-fastened pockets on each calf, larger snap-fastened pockets on each thigh including a special pocket for the bail-out oxygen bottle. The new generation of flying suits were less cumbersome than the shearling items they gradually replaced, but were just as warm when worn with the appropriate accessories. They were more durable, cheaper to produce/procure and were well liked by the airman who wore them.

Headgear

In the E.T.O., several types of leather and/or shearling flying helmets were worn by US Airmen. Early on, the B5 and B6 shearling helmets were worn, the B6 being an improved version of the B5 with attachment points for an oxygen mask and cups for the earphones. These cups were leather mouldings and were usually field fitted as required. Occasionally, earphones with a headband would be worn over these helmets and a



Bombardier on his seat in the nose - a hot place to be when German fighters were attacking head on and especially if he was occupied with the Norden sight on the bombing run.



This head shot affords an excellent view of the A-11 flying helmet and A-14 oxygen mask. The goggles are the Air Force issue B-8's. Late in the war, a heated lens was introduced for these goggles to prevent them from misting up. Note the thick mouton collar of the B-10 jacket.

small hole would be cut at each side to enable the wearer to hear!

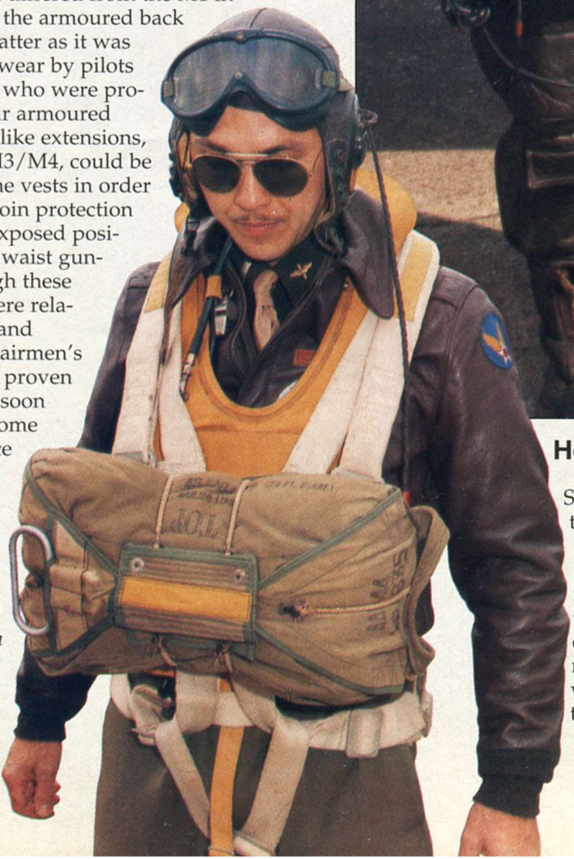
As has already been mentioned, the British Type "C" helmet, adapted for use with American receivers, was widely worn, particularly by USAAF fighter pilots. Perhaps the most widely used American helmet was the A-11, made of soft brown leather and lined with pale yellow Chamois. At each side are the distinctive, large black rubber cups which held the ANB-H-1 receivers. Similar in outward appearance, but lined with shearling was the AN-H-16, a popular and warm helmet for air crew in cold and exposed positions like waist gunners. A recognition feature of this helmet is its broad, shearling chin strap.

Finally, no list of USAAF winter headgear would be complete without including the famous and distinctive B-2, shearling, "gunners' cap". To many, this is the archetypal piece of USAAF air crew headgear, usually seen in contemporary newsreels with its peak pushed back at a jaunty angle and its shearling earflaps folded up!

Body Armour

Studies of casualties among USAAF air crews revealed that a high percentage of injuries were caused by relatively low velocity projectiles within the aircraft - shell splinters, ricocheting rounds of ammunition and even parts of the airframe itself, therefore, some form of protective body armour was deemed to be desirable in order to reduce these statistics.

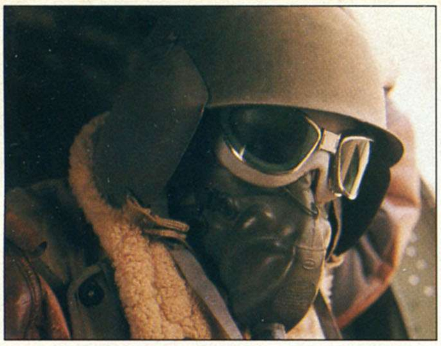
Development began in the UK in late 1942 and the famous Wilkinson Sword Company was contracted to produce suits to the approved designs, these being the M1 and M2. Both were vests made from overlapping steel plates contained within a heavy canvas shell. The M2 differed from the M1 in that it lacked the armoured back panel of the latter as it was intended for wear by pilots and co-pilots who were protected by their armoured seats. Apron-like extensions, designated M3/M4, could be attached to the vests in order to provide groin protection for those in exposed positions such as waist gunners. Although these 'flak suits' were relatively heavy and added to the airmen's burden, their proven effectiveness soon helped overcome any reluctance to wear them in combat.



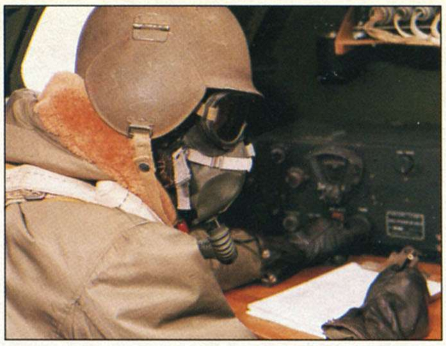
RIGHT: This shot affords an excellent view of the standard AN-6513 chest-mounted, reserve 'chute. The Lieutenant wears an A-11 flying helmet with B-8 goggles. The sunglasses are the classic AN-6531 aviator style. Beneath his chute and 'Mae West' this Lieutenant wears an A-2 leather jacket over his AN 6550 flying suit. Visible at the neck is his officer's 'chocolate' shirt and khaki tie. Note the rank and AAF insignia pinned to the shirt collar.

Head protection

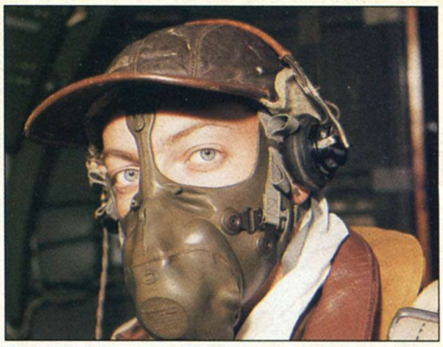
Some form of head protection was obviously also desirable. In the absence of any alternative, air crews initially wore the standard M-1 Infantry helmet. However, this was less than satisfactory because it was not



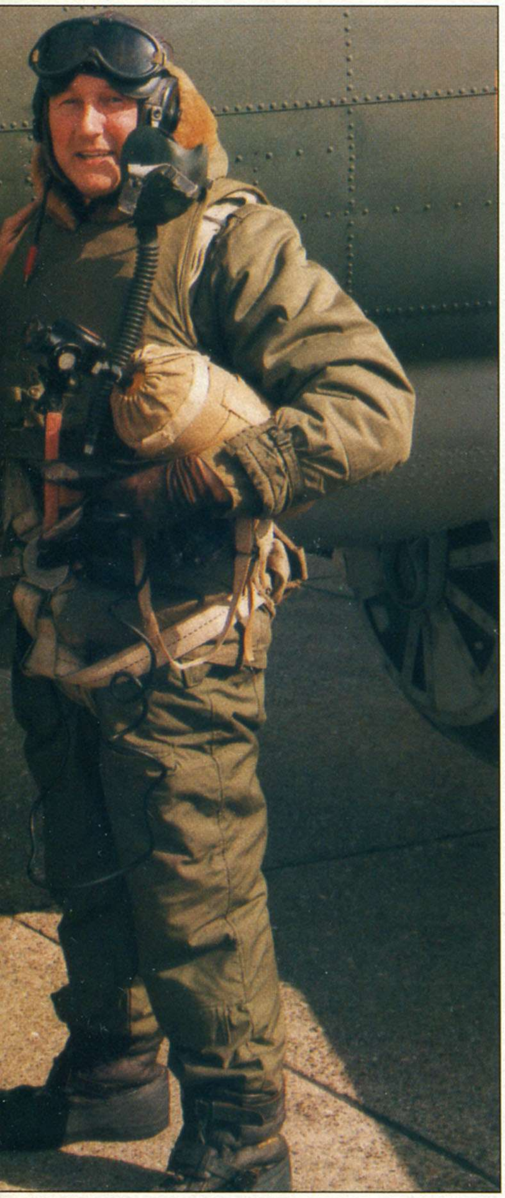
Looking like something from a science fiction movie, this crewman is very well equipped for high altitude combat. He wears an M3 flak helmet over his leather flying helmet and his eyes are protected by his An-6530 goggles. His oxygen mask is the distinctive A-10. Just visible at his shoulder is the dot fastener which secures his M1 flak vest.

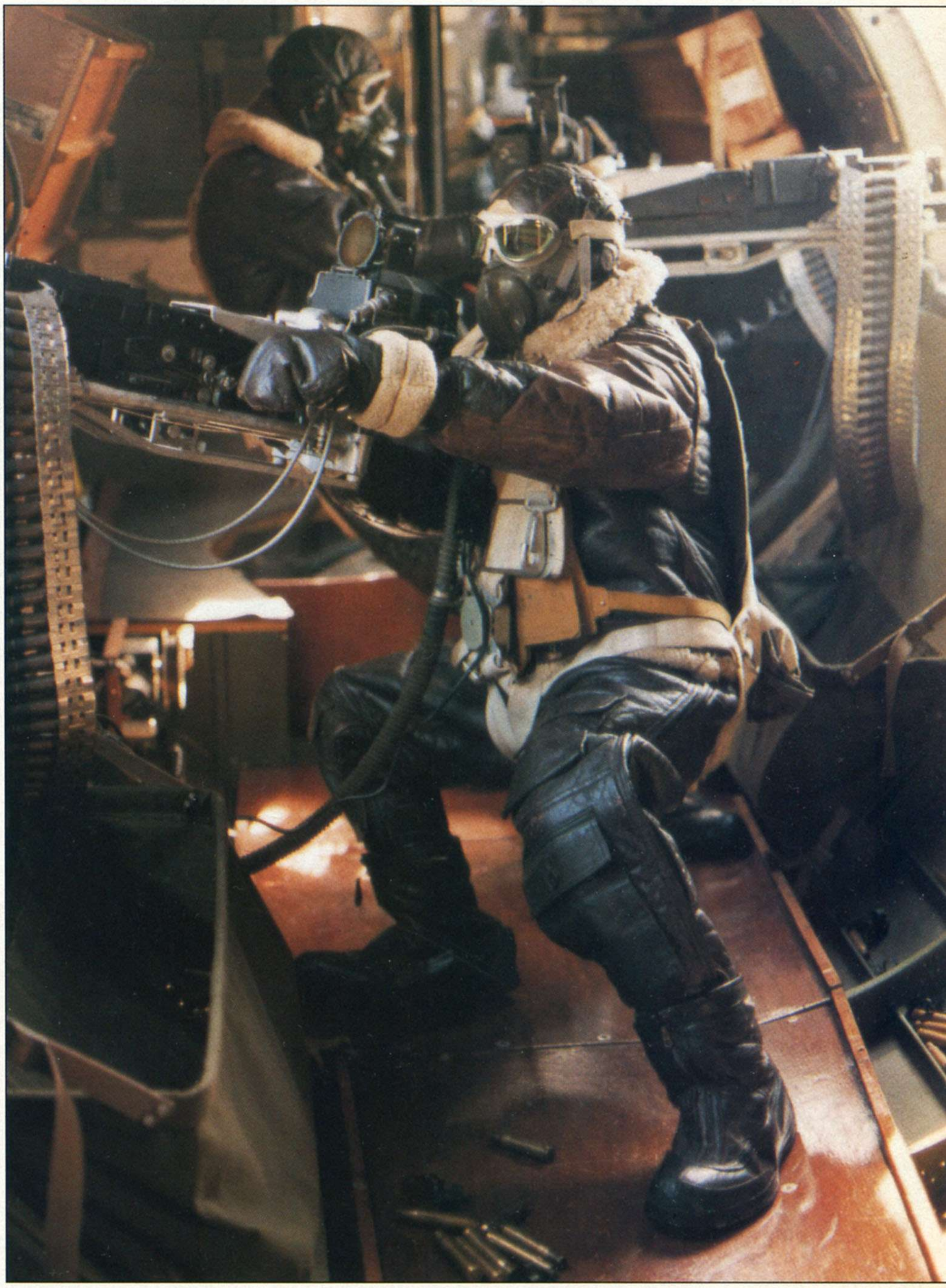


A radio operator at his station. The large hinged ear cups of his M3 flak helmet are shown to good effect here. He is wearing the parka style B-11 jacket with its mouton trimmed hood.



Seen clearly here is the A-10 oxygen mask with its distinctive harness arrangement. The crewman wears an HS-18 headset over the popular B-2 shearling "gunners' cap".





ABOVE: A fine shot of a pair of bomber crewmen. The man on the left wears the M1/M3 flak vest and apron combination over his B3/A3 shearling suit. The red tape was a quick release device which would jettison the body armour should the crewman need to bail out. His colleague wears a B-11 jacket, an alpaca-lined, parka type jacket with a mouton trimmed hood. Under his arm he carries a portable oxygen bottle which was used whenever a crewman needed to leave his fixed station within the plane. The man on the left wears the general purpose, 1021 Army goggles whilst his companion wears the standard Air Force B-8's, manufactured by Polaroid and supplied with a variety of coloured lenses, as was the Army type. ABOVE RIGHT: "Me-109's at 11 o'clock!". A pair of B-17 waist-gunners in action and fully equipped for combat at high altitude. Hitherto, B-17 waist windows were open to the elements making this positions particularly chilly one for the gunners. However, B-17G's introduced Plexiglas glazing which afforded the gunners and other crew members some protection from the freezing slipstream. Also, the gun positions were now staggered to prevent the gunners from getting in each other's way.

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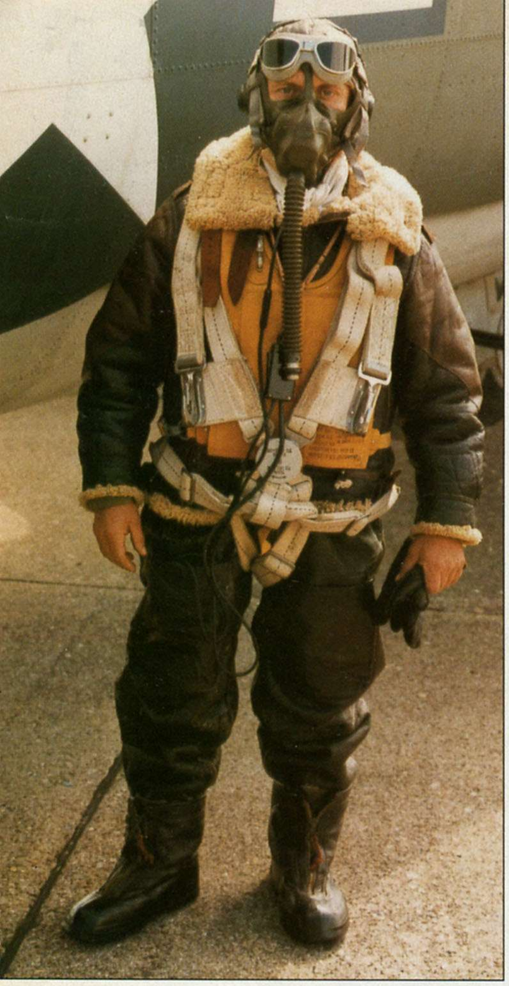
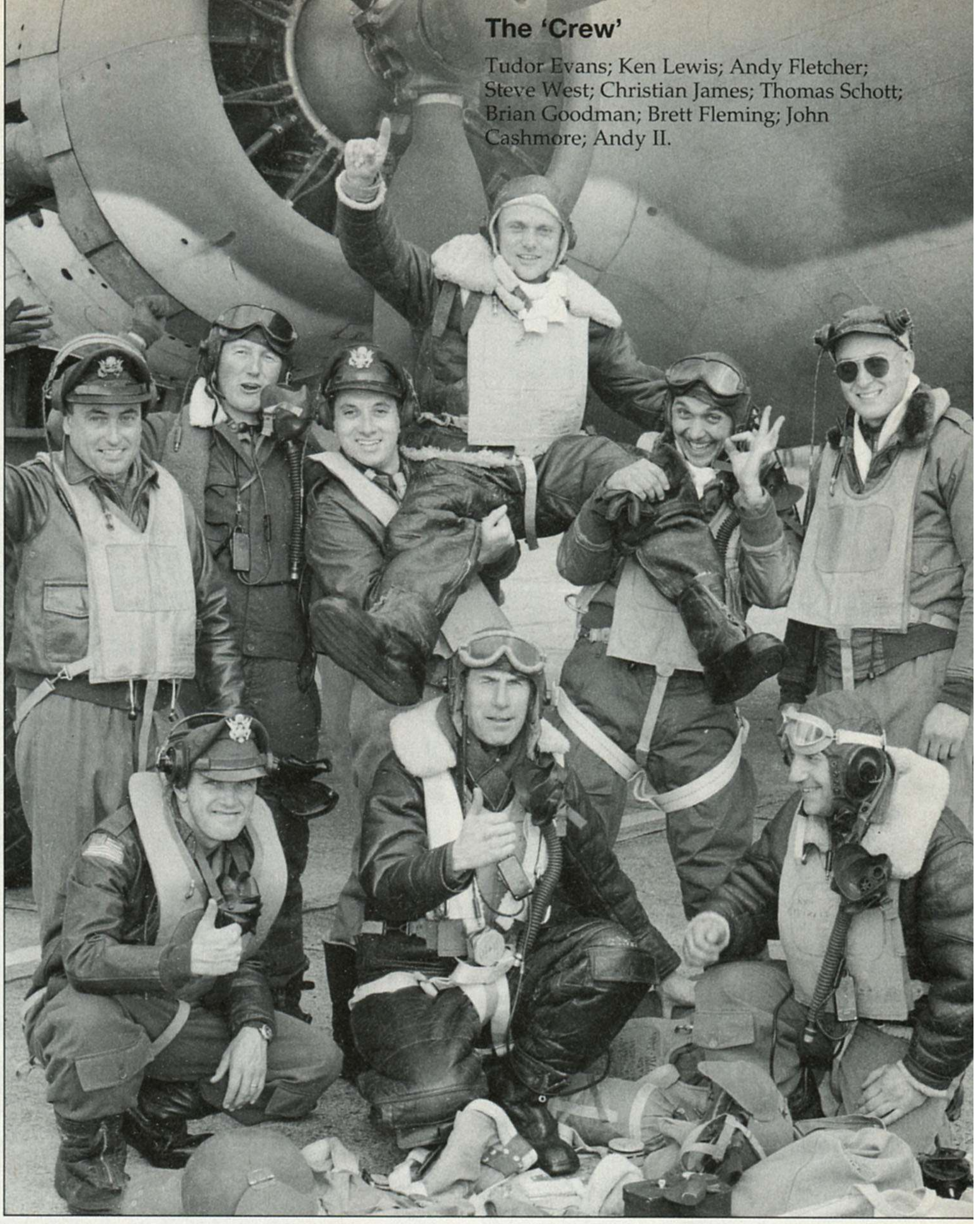


ABOVE: A typical USAAF bomber crewman, Europe, 1944. This airman wears the B3/A3 shearling jacket and trousers with A6 flying shoes. On his head is an A-11 flying helmet and AN-6530 goggles. The oxygen mask is an A-10, identifiable by the centre strap running up between the eyes to its elasticated 'Juliet' harness. Worn over his 'Mae West' is the harness for his B-9 parachute with its quick release buckle.



The 'Crew'

Tudor Evans; Ken Lewis; Andy Fletcher; Steve West; Christian James; Thomas Schott; Brian Goodman; Brett Fleming; John Cashmore; Andy II.

designed to fit over flying helmets. Various 'field fixes' were tried which involved stretching the helmet shell and cutting away sections of the liner to better accommodate the earphones, etc., but the problem was not really resolved satisfactorily until the introduction of the M3 Flak helmet in late 1943. This was a standardised modification of the basic M1 which dispensed with the plastic liner and had cut-outs at the sides to accommodate the bulky earphone housings. These in turn were covered by prominent hinged armoured cups, which gave the helmet a distinctive appearance. Its steel shell was coated with a layer of Olive-Drab flock which gave it a velvet like texture and was intended to prevent it from icing up at high altitudes. The M3 was developed further and by the War's end it had evolved into the M5 which was a similar design but with a closer fitting shell and elongated armoured ear cups.

For airmen in the cramped confines of ball and upper turrets, the M3 proved to be unsuitable due to the lack of available headroom. Consequently, a close-fitting, leather covered, steel 'skull cap', designated the M4, was introduced to overcome this problem, which it did quite successfully.

As mentioned previously, this can only be a brief overview of the clothing and equipment commonly used by USAAF bomber crews in the E.T.O. during WWII. Many of the items referred to in the text are illustrated and captioned in the accompanying photographs. Again, I would refer readers to the titles listed in the bibliography at the end of this feature.

The Reconstruction

Back in august 1996, a group of dedicated USAAF collectors and re-enactors assembled at the Imperial War Museum's aviation branch at Duxford Airfield near Cambridge. It was a notable occasion for all concerned as the authorities at Duxford had kindly given permission for 'Mary Alice', their finely restored B-17G, to be used for this reconstruction, a once in a life time opportunity before the aircraft was wheeled inside the new United States Air Force Museum on permanent display.

Much planning had gone into this beforehand and a wide range of original WWII clothing and equipment had been assembled, representing air crew and ground crew both officers and men, to recreate as authentic an appearance as possible.

Also, please spare a thought for our intrepid band who, in the interests of historical accuracy, wore high altitude flight clothing at ground level in summer temperatures!

Nevertheless, in spite of the temporary discomfort, a good time was had by all and the carefully staged vignettes really do turn the clock back to those wartime days when the skies above England reverberated to the sound of hundreds of 'throaty' Wright Cyclone engines!

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the following individuals without whom this project would not have been possible:
Frank Crosby, Debbie Walters, Chris Chippington and the staff at Duxford Airfield.
Seimon Pugh-Jones - photography and concept.

Recommended Reading

Combat Flying Equipment - US Army Aviators' Personal Equipment 1917-45.
Combat Flying Clothing - Army Air Forces Clothing During WWII, C.G. Sweeting. Smithsonian Institution Press/Airlife Books.
Silver Wings, Pinks and Greens.
More Silver Wings Pinks and Greens.
Gear Up! - Flight Clothing and Equipment of the USAAF in WWII,
Jon A. Maguire - Schiffer Publishing.
American Flight Jackets, Airmen and Aircraft, Jon A. Maguire/John P. Conway, Schiffer Publishing.
The Mighty Eighty.
The Mighty Eighth War Manual.
The Mighty Eighth in Colour.
The Ninth Air Force in Colour. All Roger A. Freeman - Arms and Armour Press.
US Army Air Force 1 - Osprey Elite Series 46.
US Army Air Force 2 - Osprey Elite Series 51. All Gordon Rottman/Francis Chinn.
Doughboy to G.I. - US Army Equipment and Clothing 1900-1945. Kenneth Lewis - (Norman D. Landing Publishing). ■

OBSERVATION POST

NEWS FOR WARGAMERS
BY STUART ASQUITH

A couple of mounted medieval knights in the range from Qualiticast.

Guernsey Foundry recently produced an additional release of 10 Cossack types - mounted with duplicate foot figures.

New Medievals

Qualiticast (29 The Quantocks, Flitwick, Bedfordshire MK45 1TG) have added a series of 25mm Medieval figures to their range. Measuring some 28mm in fact, the figures are sculpted by Paul Barnshaw and they are cast in lead free pewter. Set in the 1100-1300 period, the run so far features three mounted and six dismounted knights in various poses. All are depicted in long surcoats, although there is a variety of helmet styles amongst the castings. Shields ('heater' or 'almond') and weapons (lance, chain mace, sword, axe or mace) are supplied separately to suit, or as requested if stocks permit, at no extra cost. I understand that the range will be extended to include men-at-arms, civilians, characters, as well as more knights. There are four war horses for this range, two with barding at £1.10 each and two without at 90p each. The riders or foot figures are 60p each. UK postage and packing is 10% up to £20, 5% £20-£50 and post free on orders over £50. The figures for Europe are 20%, 15% and 10%, elsewhere they are 40%, 35% and 30%, with all orders being despatched by air mail.

GJM Figurines Painting Service

An ancient Eastern archer painted to a high standard by Gerard Cronin (GJM Figurines Painting Service, 74 Crofton Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 8HY). The rates for 25mm figures are £3.75 foot, £6.50 cavalry, £5.50 gun, £7 chariots and wagons, £8 elephants. Please add 50% for flagbearer figures and £5 extra for a hand painted flag. GJM also offer a deluxe basing service plus 30%, or basic basing service at 10%. Showcase standard figures are also available at double these prices. Send an ssae for details of this company's painting services. Postage and packing is 15%. Cheques payable to Gerard Cronin please.

The 25mm Wild West hotel furniture set from Frontline Wargaming (the figures are by Guernsey Foundry).

Even in the Wild West it seems that the service was none too good! Furniture by Frontline Wargaming, figures by Guernsey Foundry.

The Russians Are Coming!

Guernsey Foundry (Hubert's Lane, Off Doyle Road, St Peter Port, Channel Islands GY1 1RG) have increased their range of Seven Years War Russian infantry. Thus far all the figures are in campaign order, ie wearing waistcoats with no coat or sword. There are seven musketeer figures of which the 'standard' figure is a private in the attack march pose and there are five variants on this casting - minor changes to the head position, face and arms - just to give units 'life' without making them too untidy. In support are mounted and dismounted officers, colour bearers and drummers. The grenadiers are also without their coats and the 'march attack' pose again has variants.

The figures are 65p each, or 10 of the same figure for £6 and Guernsey Foundry also offer one each of these 22 new Russians for £14. To help (or hinder) the above come Krovski's Raiders, led by Segei Krovski, the cruel and haughty Hetman. This a further release of 10 Cossack types - mounted with duplicate foot figures - to strengthen the initial release from Guernsey Foundry. Well animated and nicely detailed, these evil lads are possibly even better than the first batch and can be used be used from the 16th through to the 19th centuries. The foot figures and riders are 65p each, horses 90p each, 10 of the same code are £6 and £8 respectively.

An ancient Eastern archer painted to a high standard by GJM Figurines Painting Service.

Also new in the 25mm Wild West range from Frontline Wargaming is this Indian burial platform. (Figure by Guernsey Foundry).

Scenic Additions

Frontline Wargaming (Gibraltar Farm, Ham Lane, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3JJ) have added a number of new items to their various ranges of polyester resin scenic items. A pack of 10 shell craters has been added to the 20mm fortification series, while a thatched cottage with a wooden lean-to is now included in the 20mm building range. In the 25mm WWII range now has a three piece kit of a shop corner ruin and an light machine-gun sandbagged position with a separate camouflage net for prone figures.

The 25mm Wild West series now has two sets of period furniture. The first is for a bank and consists of a two position counter, a large safe, a roll top desk and a bookcase. Next is a hotel set and features a double bed, wardrobe, a wash stand and a settee. Also new in the Wild West range is an Indian burial platform. A revetted gun emplacement has been added to the 20mm horse and musket range and there is the start of a new series featuring a 15mm trench system. ■

Now '97

The Norfolk Organisation of Wargamers present NOW '97 on Saturday 12th July 1997 from 10am to 5pm at St. Andrew's Hall, Norwich. Admission is £1.50 (children 50p) and there will be 30 traders, many participation games, a bring and buy, plus displays by the British Model Soldier Society and the Flat Figure Society. General enquiries to Kim Daniels 01362 691057; wargamers contact Malcolm Eve 01362 695115 and traders Peter Bateman 01603 898641.

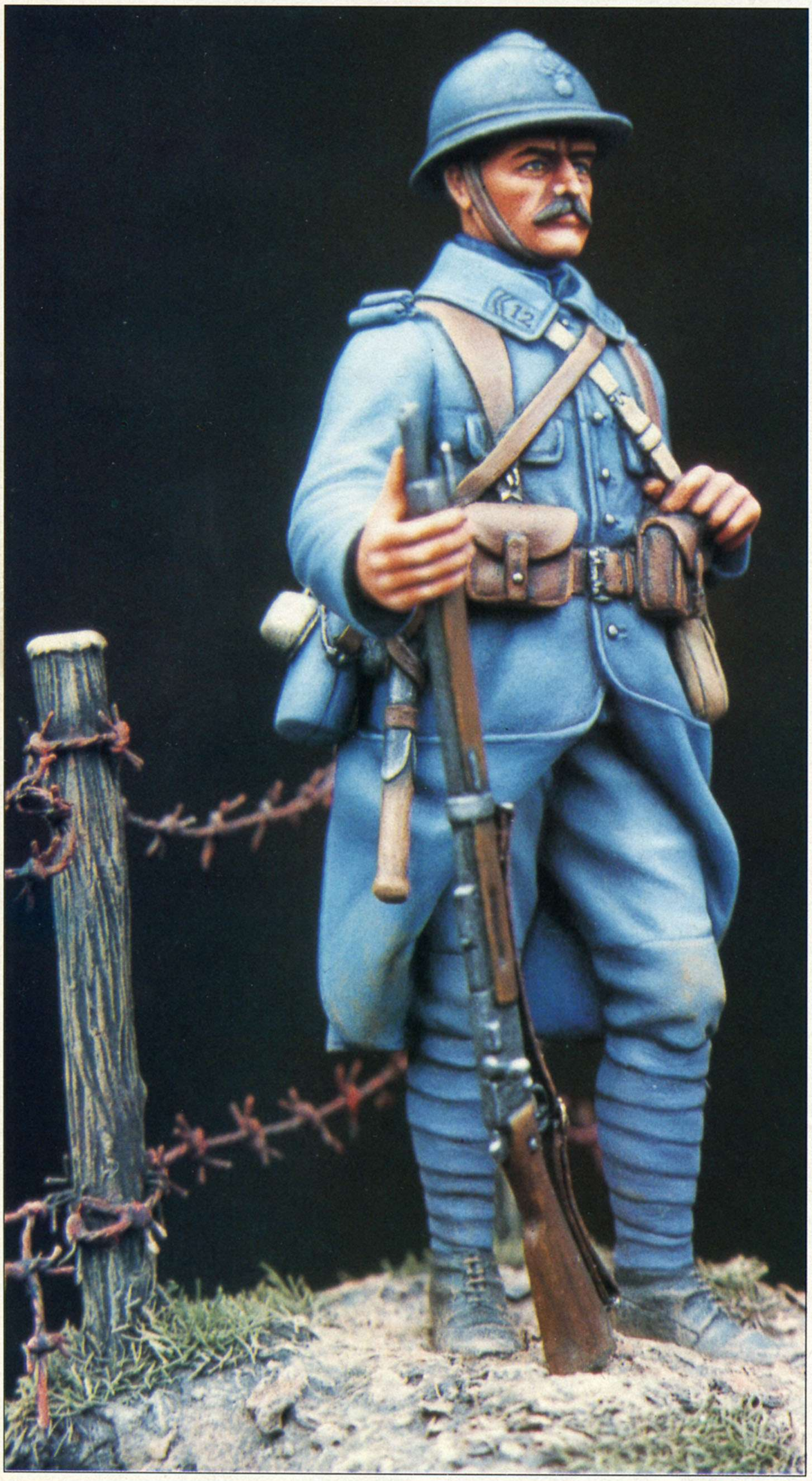
Attack 97

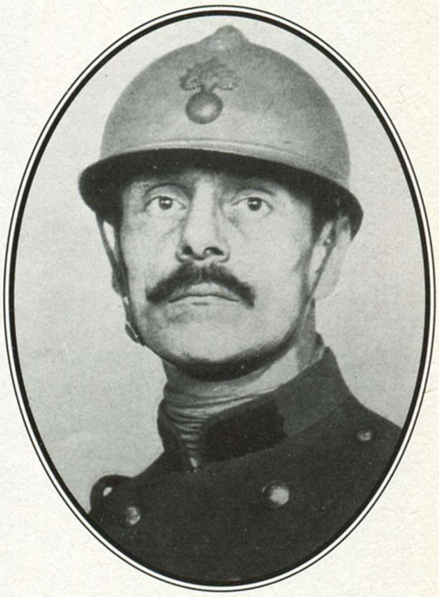
Attack - the annual show of the Devizes and District Wargames Group will take place at the Corn Exchange, Devizes on 12th/13th July 1997.

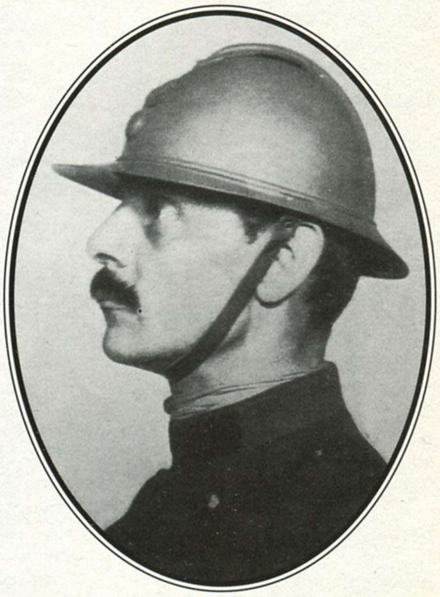
Dragoon '97

Dragoon '97 will take place on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th July. The event will be held in the same venue as last year, The Grand Hall, The Colonnades, The Albert Dock Complex, Liverpool. The hosts are the Liverpool Wargames Association who look forward to welcoming old and new friends to the event. Anyone wanting further details can contact Ian Sanderson on 0151-708 5152 (day) or 0151-489 3476 (evening).

French Infantry 1915


The author's model built and painted 'straight from the kit' is enhanced by a scenic base which features wooden stakes with barbed wire.


Front and side views of the French 'Adrian' steel helmet. Bob Marrion.

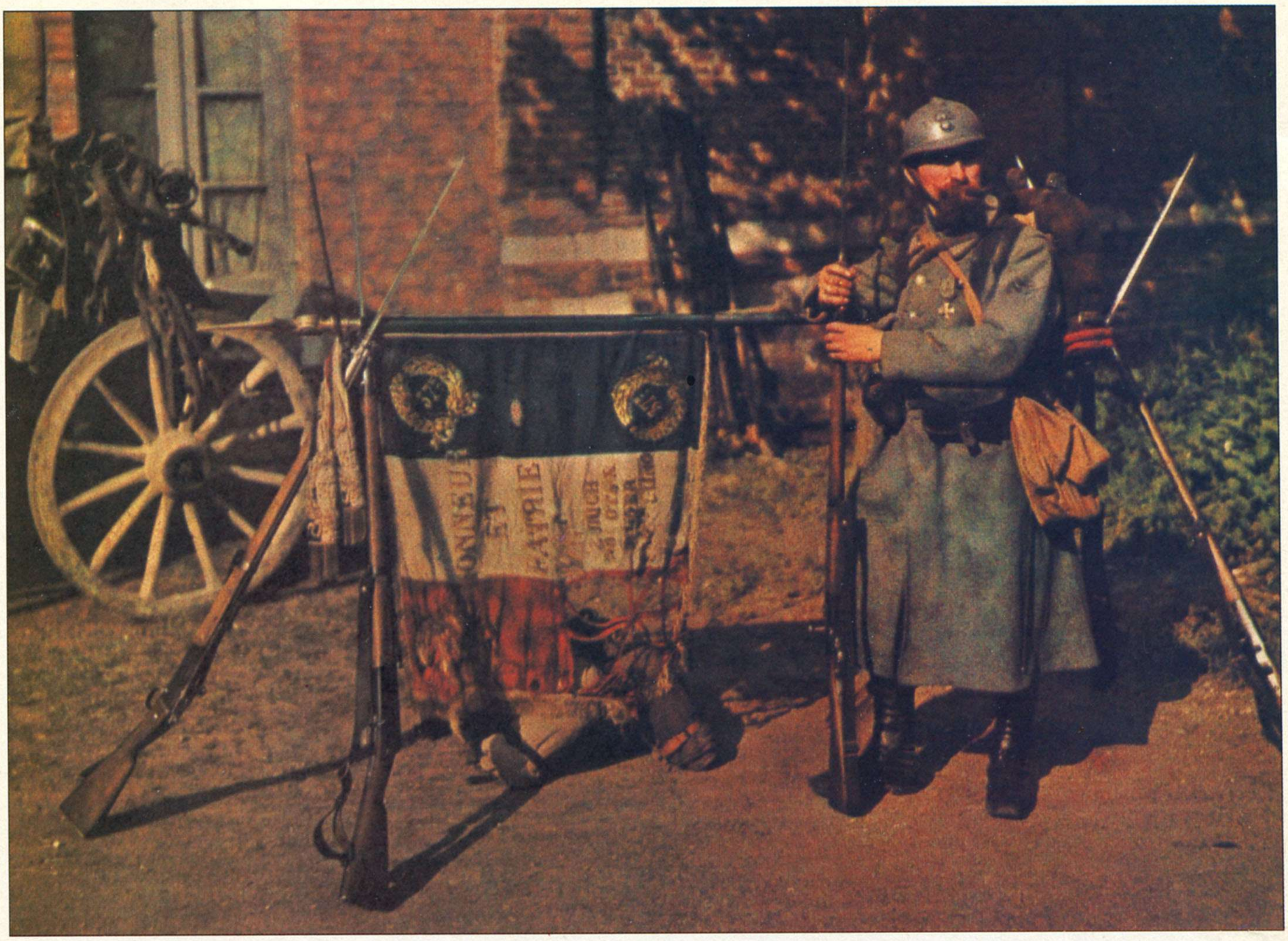


Toshiichi Matsuoka provides the paint references he used for Metal Modeles' 90mm French infantryman kit

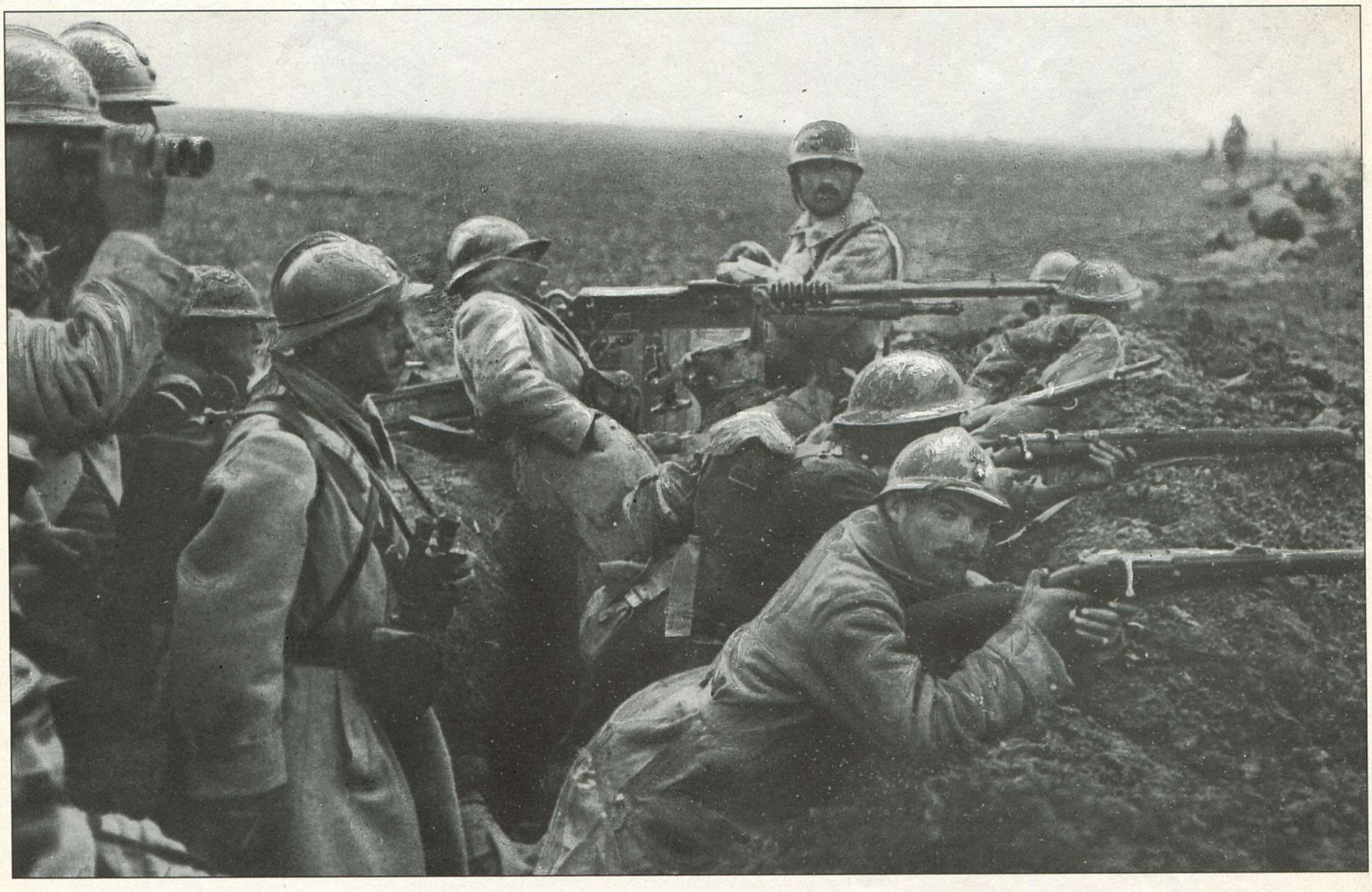
I primed the figure with 'Soft 99 Purasahu', a Japanese-made car body repair aerosol spray. No doubt modellers in different countries have their own particular favourite paint for priming, but I'm used to Purasahu which gives a good key for painting.

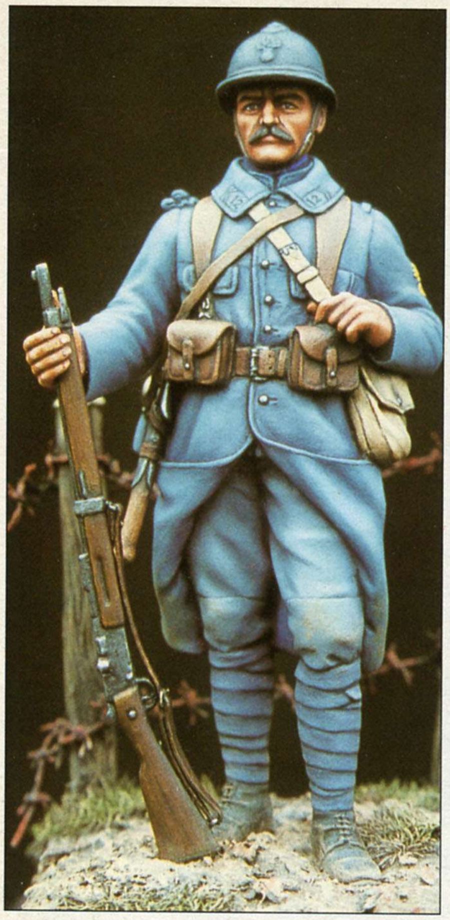
I use Humbrol enamel paints to undercoat my figures using the nearest approximate shadow of undercoat to the finished colour.

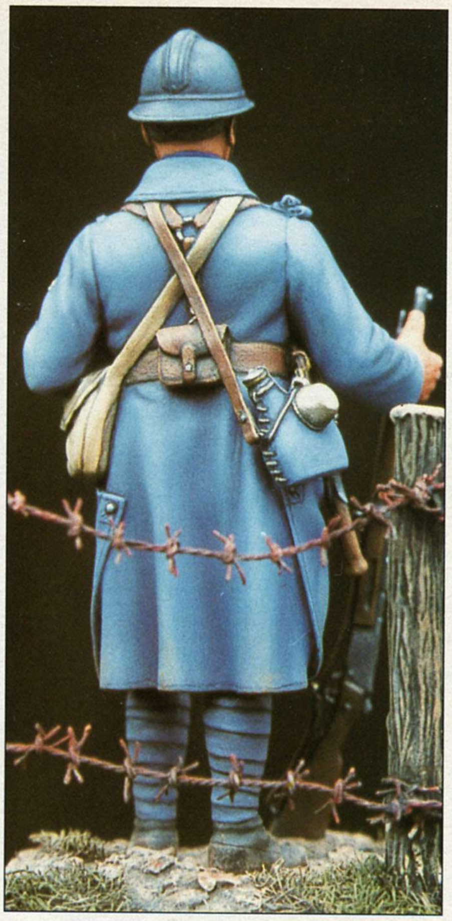
Winsor & Newton artists' oil colours are used to paint my models along with . Japanese Matsuda oil colours (Sepia) and ▶



ABOVE: *An early colour illustration showing a soldier of the 37th Regiment of Infantry, in 1917. Bob Marrion.* BELOW: *French and British soldiers share a hastily dug trench in 1918. The machine-gun is a Model 1914 8mm Hotchkiss. Bob Marrion.*







printers' inks - Pale Gold, Rich Gold and silver.

Stage 1 Face and hands

Undercoat: Humbrol 61 Flesh.
Base: Shadow + Titanium White.
Shadow: Cadmium Red + Cadmium Orange + Burnt Sienna + dab of Burnt Umber.
Deep shadow: Burnt Umber + Cadmium Red Deep + dab of Sepia.
Highlight: Base + Titanium White.
Light highlight: Titanium white + dab of Cadmium Yellow.

Stage 2 Hair, moustache and eyebrows

Base: Sepia.
Highlight: Burnt Umber + Mars Yellow.
Light highlight: Highlight + Titanium White.

Stage 3 Eyes

Base: Titanium White + dab of Lamp Black.
Iris: Blue Black + dab of Titanium White and Titanium White on centre.

Stage 4 Lips

Base: Cadmium Red + Titanium White.
Highlight: Base + Titanium White.

Stage 5 Helmet

Undercoat: Humbrol 104 Oxford Blue.
Base: Blue Black + Prussian Blue + Titanium White.
Shadow: Blue Black.

BELOW LEFT: 'Bomb throwers' at Verdun. Bob Marrion. BELOW RIGHT: 'Poilu'. Bob Marrion.

Deep shadow: Lamp Black.
Highlight: Base + Titanium White.
Light highlight: Titanium White + dab of Blue Black.
Rust and stain: dry-brush Sepia + Cadmium Red.

Stage 6 Scarf

Undercoat: Humbrol 104 Oxford Blue.
Base and shadow: French Ultramarine.
Highlight: Base + Titanium White.

Stage 7 Greatcoat

Undercoat: Humbrol 34 White.
Base: Indigo + Prussian Blue + Titanium White + dab of Lamp Black.
Shadow: Indigo.
Deep shadow: Lamp Black + Indigo.
Highlight: Base + Titanium White.
Light highlight: Titanium White.

Stage 8 Trousers and water bottle

Undercoat: Humbrol 34 White.
Base: Indigo + Titanium White.
Shadow: Indigo.
Deep shadow: Indigo + Lamp Black.
Highlight: Base + Titanium White.
Light highlight: Highlight + Titanium White.

Stage 9 Puttees

Undercoat: Humbrol 34 White.
Base: Blue Black + Titanium White.
Shadow: Blue Black.
Highlight: Base + Titanium White.

Stage 10 Boots

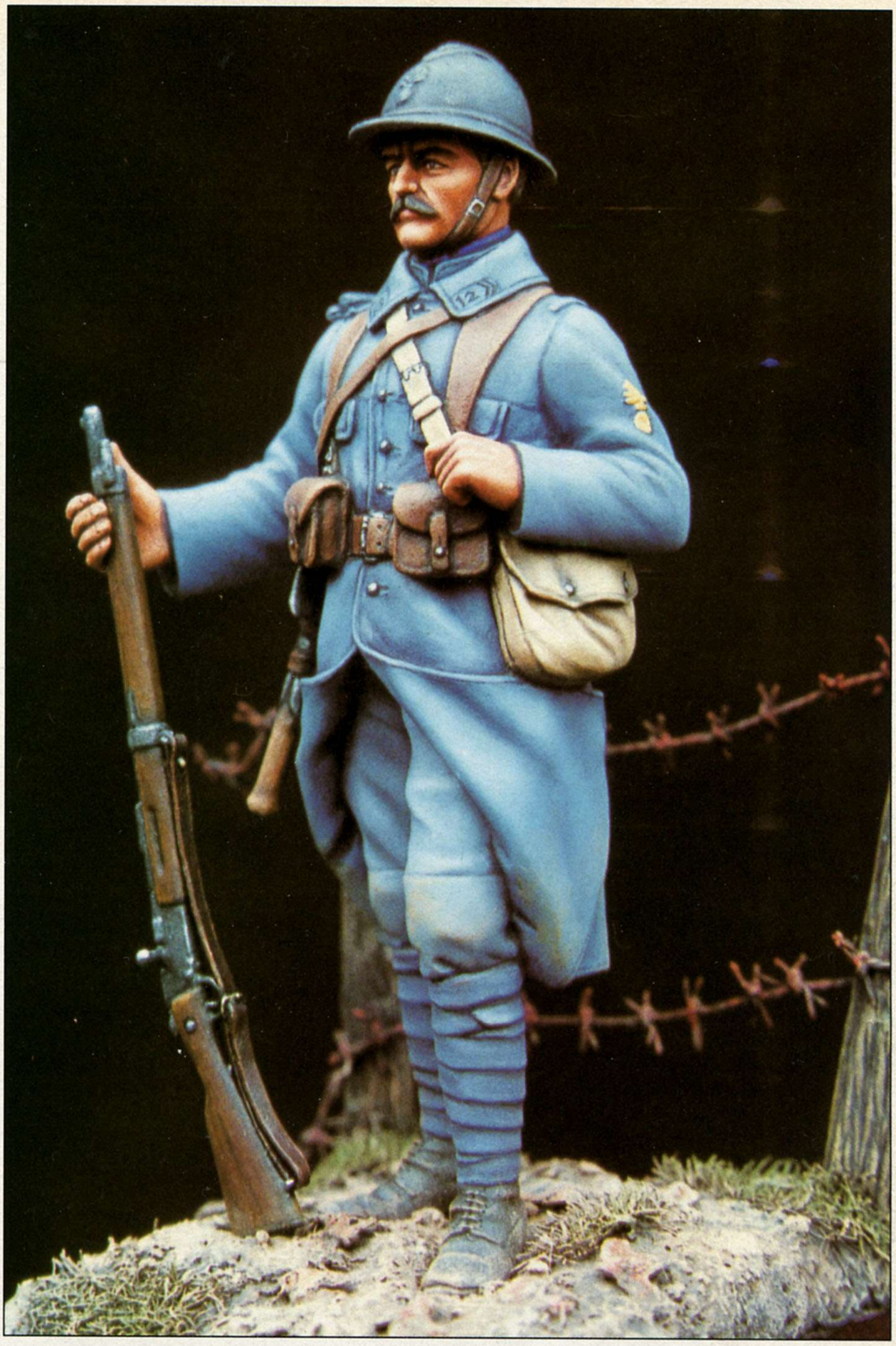
Undercoat: Humbrol 33 Black.
Base and shadow: Lamp Black.
Highlight: Lamp Black + Mars Brown.
Light highlight: Mars Brown + Mars Yellow.
All dry-brushed: Humbrol 62 Leather + Humbrol 34 White.

Stage 11 Leather belts (magazine pouch, shoulder strap and helmet strap).

Undercoat: Humbrol 180 Red Leather.
Base: Mars Brown + Burnt Sienna.
Shadow: Burnt Umber.
Deep shadow: Burnt Umber + Lamp Black.
Highlight: Mars Brown + Mars Yellow.
Light highlight: Mars Yellow + Titanium White.

Stage 12 Haversack

Undercoat: Humbrol 34 White.
Base: Mars Yellow + Burnt Umber + Titanium White.
Shadow: Base + Burnt Umber.
Deep shadow: Sepia.
Highlight: Base + Titanium White.
Light highlight: Titanium White + dab of Mars Yellow.



Stage 13 Shovel

Metal parts:
Undercoat: Humbrol 33 Black.
Base: Lamp Black + Silver.
Shadow: Lamp Black.
Highlight: Silver + dab of Lamp Black.
Rust: Sepia + Humbrol 180 Red Leather.
Wooden parts:
Undercoat: Humbrol 34 White.
Base: Gold Ochre + Titanium White
Shadow and wood grain pattern: Burnt Umber.
Deep shadow: Burnt Umber.
Highlight: Base + Titanium White.

Stage 14 Cup and metal buckles

Undercoat: Lamp Black.
Base: Silver + Pale Gold.
Shadow: Lamp Black + dab of Base.
Highlight: Silver.

Stage 15 Buttons

Undercoat: Lamp Black.
Base: Silver + Lamp Black.
Highlight: Silver.

Stage 16 Badges

Collar badges: Lamp Black.
Grenadier badges:
Base: Cadmium Yellow.
Shadow: Light Red.
Highlight: Base + Titanium White.

Stage 17 Rifle

Metal parts:
Undercoat: Humbrol 33 Black.
Base: Lamp Black + dab of Silver.
Shadow: Lamp Black.
Highlight: Silver + dab of Lamp Black.
Wooden parts:
Undercoat: Humbrol 62 Leather.
Base: Burnt Umber + Cadmium Orange.
Shadow and wood grain: Burnt Umber.
Deep shadow: Burnt Umber + Lamp Black.
Highlight: Base + Mars Yellow.
Sling:
Undercoat: Humbrol 180 Red Leather.
Base: Burnt Umber + Cadmium Red Deep + Lamp Black.
Shadow: Base + Lamp Black.
Deep shadow: Lamp Black.
Highlight: Base + Mars Brown.
Light highlight: Mars Yellow.
Metal parts buckles and studs:
Undercoat and shadow: Lamp Black.
Base and highlight: Rich Gold + Liquid. ■

93rd Highlander

Inspired to buy the Elite Miniatures' 1:10 scale bust at last year's Euro Militaire, Lee Chandler tells how he went about painting it

The I one figure that really caught my attention at last year's Euro Militaire competition was the 1:10 scale bust of a 93rd Highlander, Balaclava 1854. A Gold Medal winner, this piece was superbly sculpted and painted by Raúl Latorre. I have since heard from a friend of mine in Spain that Raúl sculpted and painted this figure in just three days - truly amazing!

Later, whilst browsing around the traders' hall, still drooling, I spotted resin castings of this figure being sold by Elite Miniatures and before I knew it I was skipping down the hall with the figure in my hand!

Preparation and repair

Shortly after my return home from Folkestone, and much to my wife's dismay, I was back in my modelling den raring to go. Upon initial inspection of my Highlander I realised that there was a quite a lot of preparation and repair work to be done before the figure would see the paint brush. The underside of the bonnet needed filling and the single mould line awkwardly centred through the right sleeve damaging some of the badge detail. After some research and help from David Grieve, we concluded that a crown was missing from above the Union Flag which formed part of a colour sergeant's insignia which the bust seemed to depict. Also, the epaulettes seemed a little narrow for this scale and the bonnet's '93' badge needed reforming. Therefore, all corrections were made to my satisfaction with A and B Putty, which seems to hold its shape better than Milliput for fiddly work.

Having got through the 'nasty' bit, the fun was about to begin. Two thinned undercoats of Humbrol Matt White were airbrushed onto the figure to seal and identify any flaws I may have missed. Rather than give a blow-by-blow account, I will highlight some of the techniques I used, which I consider were the most important elements in achieving a decent result with this bust.

A well-rendered face

Obviously, a well-rendered face is essential to bust painting as the viewer's eyes lock on to this automatically. In fact, the quality of the face is a good starting point in selecting a bust for purchase. This face is exceptional.

I will begin by describing my flesh painting method. The Humbrol undercoat consists of approximately 60% Flesh (61) plus 35% Desert Yellow (93) and 5% Rust (113) applied in two thinned coats, allowing around eight hours drying time for each. The oil mid-tone flesh colour (orange tan hue) is derived from Burnt Sienna, Gold Ochre, Cadmium Yellow Deep and dabs of Raw Umber and Vermilion. The key to my painting, whether it be a face, or anything else, is that I always start with a mid-tone. Highlights are applied with Titanium White plus a little Cadmium Yellow, then Titanium White with a touch of Naples Yellow and finally pure Titanium White. Shading is done with Burnt Umber, Mars Brown, Raw Umber and finally Brown Madder mixed 50/50 with Purple Madder for the darkest areas. Highlighting and shading is applied in the foregoing order alternately shading then highlighting.

Once this has dried naturally, thereby leaving a slight facial sheen, I re-highlight and shade. Since the face is now dry it will not affect the paint being applied as it would wet on wet. Therefore, to maintain colour tone I add a touch of the basic flesh mix to the highlight colours. Usually, I use just Raw Umber and Mars Brown for re-shading.

'Washing' the tunic

I knew that this project was going to be very demanding as I was determined to get a nice matt finish on the red tunic - if I failed with this, the whole figure would seem a failure to me. Raúl had achieved this brilliantly with his acrylic paint medium, but how could I do this with artists' oil colours? I have previously painted red clothing on many figures and can honestly say that no matter what colour mixes and advice I used, I have never been satisfied with the results. This in mind, I decided that I would combine Humbrol enamels with my oils and apply washes of both to obtain smooth highlights and shading. I can hear you say, "what's a 'wash', I keep coming across this but how do you do it?" - Read on and I will try to explain as I believe that mastering this technique is the 'secret' (if there is one!) in turning good painting into very good painting.

Bill Horan's use of Humbrol enamels has always intrigued me, especially after reading his description of their use in his super Master Class book published by Windrow and Green. I particularly like the results he gets with red tunics using Flesh for highlights. This in mind, I decided to paint the Highlander's tunic initially with Humbrol enamels using Bill's method as a guide. Subsequently, oil washes were used to modify the enamels.

Tunic colours

A base colour of Scarlet (60) plus small amounts of Brick Red (70) and Leather (62) was mixed into a muted red. Two thinned coats were added to the tunic allowing overnight drying in between (don't worry if the initial coat is a little blotchy as the second application will give a denser, opaque finish). A third coat was laid on and allowed to dry for just half an hour. Thinned highlights of base colour plus Flesh (61) and shading with base and Black (33) were applied. The edges of the highlight and shade tones can be blended by a brush slightly dampened with thinners, as the base coat can be agitated into the paint just laid on, being only partially dried. Leave for at least 24 hours to dry thoroughly.

Now, mix a muted red with oil paints emulating the Humbrol base colour - Vermilion plus small amounts of Yellow Ochre, Burnt Sienna and Alizarin Crimson. Using a large brush (size 1) thin the mix with white spirit into a watery consistency to the extent that it is translucent - this is a 'wash'. Apply this wash over the previously Humbrol painted area.

Use a wide chisel edged brush and brush downward on the tunic to remove excess paint. As the wash dries you will have a richer and deeper, yet subtle colour tone with the shading and highlighting of the enamels nicely showing through the oils. Now you can add more Alizarin Crimson to the oil mix and lay it on the shade areas of the tunic. The darkness is built up by repeating the shading and adding Humbrol Black (33) to the oils (using the paint from the bottom of the tin) - yes mixing oil and enamel paint is workable! Add more washes of the original oil colour which builds on the depth of colour. It is a lengthy process, but with patience the results are extremely pleasing.

Bonnet tips!

The bonnet was undercoated with Humbrol Oxford Blue (104) and painted with Ivory Black oil colour. When dry, a darkish grey was mixed from Ivory Black and Titanium White and used to apply the highlights on each feather - laborious maybe, but effective. Do not dry-brush these on as it will be obviously so. After this has dried, apply a thin wash of Ivory Black in order to subdue any harshness of the highlighting.

Mounting

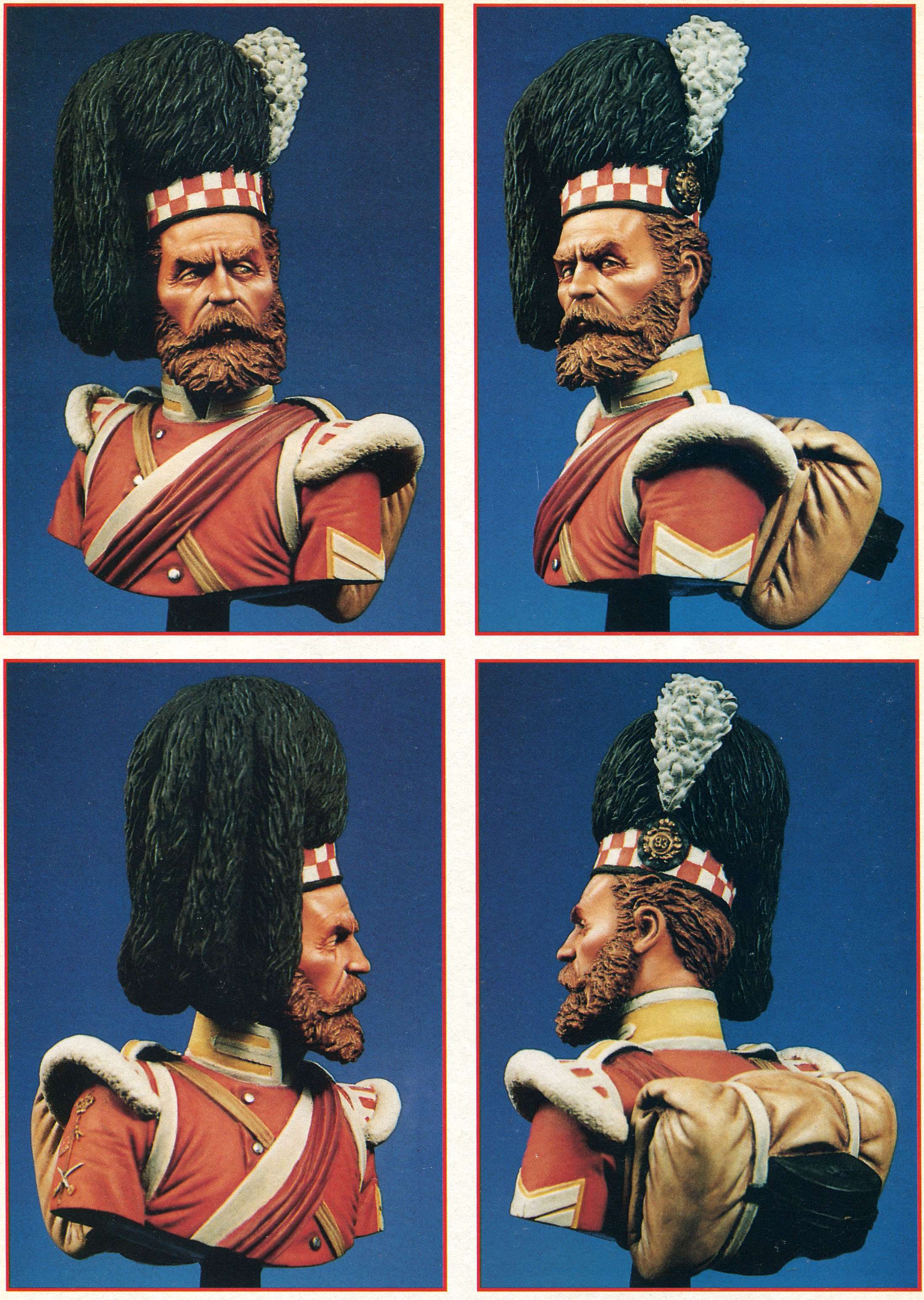
I like to mount my busts on dark wood bases, the size of which should complement the dimensions of the bust (i.e. the width of the shoulders contained within the width/diameter of the base). A neat plaque gives that professional finish. Why spend long hours producing a good figure and then mount it on a poor-looking base. If you choose carefully it doesn't cost a fortune to base figures effectively and attractively.

A pin glued with five-minute epoxy was used to secure the bust pedestal to a square block of Indonesian Rosewood from Oakwood Studios (tel: 0113 2719595). Incidentally, Indonesian Rosewood is becoming scarce and extremely expensive, but Oakwood has found some excellent and cheaper alternatives, such as Ebony. A suitable plaque was selected from the Premier Engraving range (tel: 01737 354482).

Not to be missed

Painting this bust was great fun. I am pretty satisfied with the end result and I hope that the few techniques described will help you paint this figure or help you with tackling something else. However, this bust is a gem and not to be missed!

I am preparing a similar article on Elite's Culloden Highlander bust (another Raúl Lattore masterpiece) which I hope the Editor may feature in a future *Military Modelling*. ■

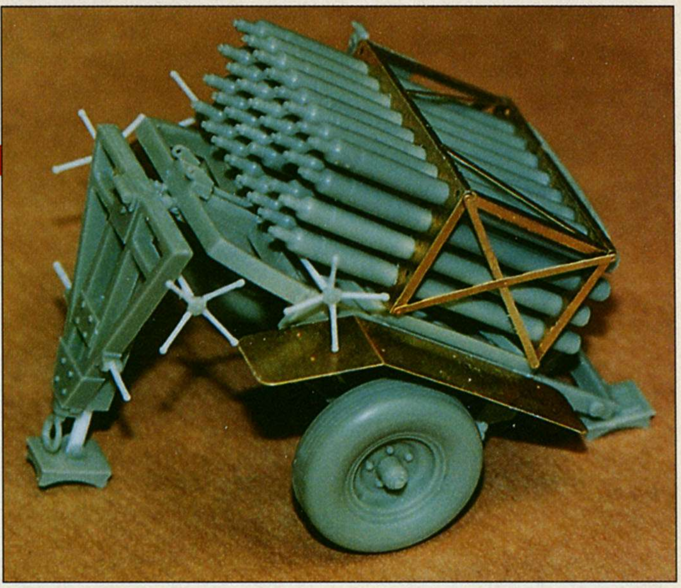


Lee's painting of the 93rd Highlander bust stands photo-enlargement well over the model's life size of 1:10 scale. Note the added crown over the colour sergeant's badge on the right upper sleeve. The badge on the side of the bonnet also needed cleaning up to the standard shown here. See the text for how the tunic was finished with a convincing matt effect.

SMALL SCALE SCENE

Robin Buckland's monthly column for military vehicle modellers

MILITARY VEHICLES



Resicast's 1:35 scale model of the Canadian 'Land Mattress' which mounted 32, six-pound aircraft type rockets.

As if to pick up on my recent comments about common themes, armoured cars seem to be appearing in fair numbers, but more on these in a moment. The plans for new releases announced this year hold lots of interest from Italeri, Dragon and Tamiya and, as yet, there still seems to be little let up in what's coming onto the market place. How long will it continue at this rate, I wonder?

It takes me back to the days of the early 1970s when injection moulded plastic kits were first released in large numbers. Still, don't knock it, it makes a pleasant change to find it difficult to keep up with the rate at which new kits are released.

Archer Models

Bad news opens this issue's column as I have been informed that Archer Models have stopped producing their range of polyester resin wargames models. A great shame this, because in the six years they have been going they have produced some really very neat models. I gather from Ryan that he is having to stop production in order to enable him to devote time to study for his Master's Degree, an understandable decision and something I know we all wish him the best with.

So the range stands still at this point because it has not been sold on for someone else to continue with, so it is just possible that it could resurface in a year or two, but that is by no means certain.

MGM

MGM, who had a stand at the last Trucks and Tracks, are a new manufacturer to me. Among their range of 1:72 scale resin/metal models is an armoured car, the Alvis Strausler, used by the Dutch in the East Indies. The hull is a one-piece resin casting and the remaining parts are white metal. A history of the vehicle is provided, in German and there's a good set of exploded assembly diagrams which are quite clear, even if you can't read German. It is certainly an unusual choice of subject and a well-produced model, and satisfying to find a range that you have not come across before.

The parts only required a minimum of cleaning up prior to assembly. Just an evening's work for assembly, then you have to paint it. Details on colour and markings is also provided and, while still in German, I don't think you will have much trouble working it out. MGM (Michael Gohres Modellbau) is at Sachsenstrasse 9, 47441 Moers 1, Germany.

C.J. Atkins

C.J. Atkins, along with Castoff, have added another 1:35 scale armoured car kit to complement their earlier Humber. This time it is the Fordson, which was really the bodywork from older Rolls Royce armoured cars added to a new chassis, but which was a bit longer and allowed a radio compartment to be added. In simple terms it is basically the same as a Rolls, but bigger. In contrast to their earlier Humber armoured car there is much more detail on the bodywork this time and all considered I would say it is a much better model.

Mainly cast in polyurethane resin, with some detail parts in white metal it's packed in a stout box and comes with a full set of assembly instructions and a painting guide. Nicely done these. Some of the parts need a bit of care when you remove the moulding plugs, but nothing particularly difficult to do. There are a good number of stowage items supplied, with petrol tins, tarpaulin rolls and such like and the quality of the castings is good, with crisp edging where appropriate. A couple of parts on the rear load area had warped a bit, but this was cured with some hot/cold water treatment.

Overall I like this one, the choice of subject is that bit more unusual and C.J. Atkins, or 'Tommy', has specialised in armoured cars in his vehicle modelling and therefore it is not too surprising to see an RAF armoured car as in the shape of the Fordson. It is especially good to see the improvements in style over the previous release in 1:35 scale and hopefully there will be more to come. Contact C.J. 'Tommy' Atkins at 17 Ashbourne Avenue, Bridlington, YO16 4PE, or Castoff at 12 West Drive, Nafferton, Driffield, East Yorkshire.

Roco Minitanks

Roco Minitanks continue to add new 1:87 scale models to their ranges. Among these is a new addition to their series of German Army vehicles, ready painted, and mounted for transport on examples of their superb model railway wagons. This one, Catalogue Number 825 is that little bit different. The stake wagon is just gorgeous. I'm not a model railway buff, but I can tell a good model when I see one, and the quality of this Roco rolling stock is a delight. Its load are two camouflaged Unimogs, one ambulance and one GS (General Service) body. The little bit extra is a third Unimog, this time 'un-camouflaged', but with a shortened chassis and small railway wheels at front and rear, as well as its normal roadwheels. This road/rail truck is apparently used for moving wagons around without the need for a complete loco. Shunting essentially. All the necessary bits are provided to tie down the trucks to the wagon, and along with the 'tow truck' you will have a very unusual looking subject in your collection. They don't come cheap but then that is comparative. Minitanks have been releasing these rail trucks at a steady pace over recent years and put together they make up into a freight train set that will be rather an eyecatcher. Available from R G King & Sons, 32, London Road, Teynham, Kent ME9 9QN.

4-Mil Models

4-Mil Models continue to expand their 1:76 scale range at a steady pace and this is a good opportunity to say that I have had a couple of letters recently which have commented on the good service they provide to their customers. Nice to hear! Readers will be aware by now that 4-Mil produce models in both metal and resin.

Among the metal models is a Ford WOT1 RAF Crew Coach and my immediate thought on seeing it was to be reminded of the old book in the 'Airfix Guide' series from years ago, on RAF vehicles. The aircrew coach was in it, along with many other models that have been kitted by various manufacturers since then. The metal castings are well done, but the main bodywork is in individual panels and while there is nothing wrong with this you do need to be that bit more careful to get everything square during assembly.

The Ford WOT1 cab I particularly liked. The end result is quite a hefty model, so, as usual, I chose low melt solder to assemble it, which gives a much more solid build than super glue, and is less hassle than a slower drying, two-part adhesive. With the Ford WOT chassis available, I suspect they might turn it to some other variants in the future. 4-Mil Models are available from 1 Hag Hill Lane, Emley, Nr Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD8 9QT.

CMSC

CMSC continue to add to their list of 1:76 scale resin and metal models and one of the latest is amongst the largest vehicles they have yet produced - the modern British army's 8-wheel Foden GS truck. This is a Low-Mobility vehicle, (i.e. road based) and the model has the body and chassis in polyurethane resin and some of the smaller details in white metal. Thought has gone into the production of the model with provision for optional dashboards, depending on whether you want left or right-hand drive versions in keeping with the Foden's use in German with British forces. The kit has excellent quality castings, separately well-packed and presented. It really does make a difference that the resin and metal parts are packed separately, so as not to let them damage each other during transit.

I was also pleased to see just how good a fit everything was and I didn't find any problems during construction, and the wire provided to make the various grab handles is a neat finishing touch. The assembly instructions are straightforward to follow. The most recognisable feature of this truck, the cab, is captured just right. The end result is quite an imposing beast. I gather that a flat bed version, along with a 20-foot container should be ready by the time you read this.

While thinking of British army equipment in Germany, CMSC have also released a set of coloured cast resin light fittings, in both amber and blue, in assorted shapes and sizes. They come out absolutely right in my eyes, though I gather they are a bit of a 'pig' to produce. Just right though for mounting on military vehicles, as used on the continent. So, put them on either British, American or any other NATO vehicles on the move and much, much better than relying on the old orange paint job! CMSC Models are available from 36 Gray Gardens, Rainham, Essex RM13 7NH.

Parabellum Models

I've started work on a couple more of the 1:48 scale Frog-Fuman range of kits, this time two from the earlier war period - the *PzKpfw II Ausf F* and the *SdKfz251/1 Ausf B*. Both are, of course, the original Bandai models and while there is a bit of flash they hold up well to today's plastic kit standards and the original Bandai idea of internal details, of any sort, is only recently re-emerging as a popular feature of model armour. The end result with these, however, is that they hold many diorama possibilities, but using so much less space than the larger 1:35 scale.

The instructions are still the originals and, as such, you just have to follow the diagrams without trying to read the Japanese characters. The decal sheets are gradually being upgraded, which Parabellum models are gradually getting hold of. Both models have been relatively easy going so far, though it's worth remembering to paint the various stages as you go along, as once assembled you won't be able to get your brush at some areas.

Parabellum Models are the importers for this range and they are distributing them to hobby shops. Alternatively contact them direct at 28 Starcross Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 7BP. These models fit in well with the ever growing 1:48 scale ranges of Hart Models, SMA, Airfield Accessories, etc.

Hart Models

Talking about Hart Models for a moment, they have recently done a series of accessory sets for the Angeco range from France. They are also available direct from Hart Models here in the UK however. Among them are sets of jerrycans, complete with etched brass handles, oils drums, tow hooks and some other bits and pieces that we'll come back to another time. A useful development to the range, and of course perfectly suited to combine with the Frog Fuman range mentioned above. Hart Models are at 13 Hunts Common, Hartley Wintney, Hants RG27 8NT.

Skybow

Skybow is a brand new range to me, and their first release is a set of 1:35 scale M108/109 track links. Injection moulded in polystyrene plastic these are nicely done. I have to be honest and say I am a little surprised at their choice for the first release, but it is 'different'. Still, they have done a good job, with end connectors to join the links together. The box shows some future planned releases, but it isn't clear if they are just track sets or complete vehicle kits. Still, good to see a new injection moulded plastic manufacturer, and we'll see how well these go down. Next scheduled release is an M38 Jeep.

The Skybow series are distributed by Automated Handling Systems Inc of Taiwan. Contact them at 6FL (Han Sheng Bldg), No.59 Sec 2 Chung Ching S. Rd, PO Box 5-103 Taipei, Taiwan.

Resicast

Staying with 1:35 scale, Resicast have added a fascinating little artillery model to their range. Most of us are familiar with the German *Nebelwerfer*, but what about the Canadian 'Land Mattress?' This is a small trailer mounting some 32 six-pound rockets of the type more usually seen slung under the wing of a British Typhoon or Tempest aircraft. As a model it is fairly basic, just a framework chassis and then the tube-mounted rockets held in a box-like structure above that. The bulk of the model is in resin, but the frame for the rockets, the mudguards and a couple of other bits are photo-etched brass.

The usual style assembly instructions are easy enough to follow on this occasion, but they have, in the past, been a bit awkward. Coupled with the pictures of the finished model I didn't find any problems. It can be assembled in either firing or towed positions.

For the braver modeller, Resicast do another variant on this kit which includes two launchers plus a crew of nine figures if I remember correctly. Various sizes of plastic rod are provided to make the axle and the adjustment handles. Take care cleaning up the webs of resin left by the casting process on the chassis frame. Once cleaned up, assembly is straightforward and I found the whole thing took just a couple of evenings work. It makes rather a change to see British rocket equipment so I suspect this one might be popular just for its choice of an unusual subject. Resicast are at 517, Vieux Chemin de Binche, B-7000 Mons, Belgium.

Verlinden Productions

Not brand new, but the Verlinden Productions' 1:35 scale kit of the German 75mm Infantry gun is a super model. VP continue to produce models to a high standard of casting quality and presentation. The box contains two bags, one with some finely cast polyurethane resin parts and the other with an etched brass fret and some lead foil, plastic rod, copper wire and the instructions sheet. What struck me in particular about the resin parts was just how thin they had managed to get the shield and suchlike, and all without losing the quality of the casting itself.

There are also some complete shells and two small sprues of empty cartridge cases. Once again, it is not what I would consider a complicated kit, but one which provides a nice model of this small, commonly used piece of German artillery. As ever the box top illustration shows how the finished gun will look. Available from Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ.

SHQ

SHQ have added yet more vehicles to their wargames range, though collectors will be happy with these white metal kits, amongst which are some *Kübelwagen* variants, one of which is a radio car. If you went to the Beltring show last year you may recall a Stower which was in a similar configuration. The rear seat, immediately behind the driver, is taken up by a box on top of which is the radio; the remaining back seat is for the operator. In this *Kübelwagen* version three, seated crew figures are also provided.

Another kit, which is a bit larger, is the Ford V3000 truck. There's a bit more to this kit, with the chassis, multi-piece cab and body. It's good to see another German softskin that isn't an Opel Blitz! If you haven't checked out this range yet, I suggest you do and there is plenty of interest to be found here. Contact SHQ Miniatures, 34 Copland Close, Basingstoke, Hants RG22 4JX.

Wargames South

Another wargames figure producer are Wargames South, and they have added a number of new 1:76 scale AFV crews to their earlier releases. Bagged in sets of five or six full or half figures, the animation is very good indeed. Now you can get both early and late war German crews, as well as two sets of Russians, one in Winter and one in Summer uniforms. Two sets of American crews are available too. I like these crew figures for their crisp detail; anatomically they look right, and some of the poses look particularly good.

Check out one or two of the US figures, seated casually atop their AFV. The Russians look well-wrapped up against the cold in their fleece-lined greatcoats, and one with signal flags at the ready. One set of German crew, all half figures, include a couple designed to go perfectly in the two side hatches of either a Panzer III or IV. The late-war full figures have a couple that are casually posed, sitting on or alongside their armoured chariot which look really good. Wargames South are at 24 Cricketer's Close, Ockley, Surrey RH5 5BA.

Armour Distribution/Accurate Armour

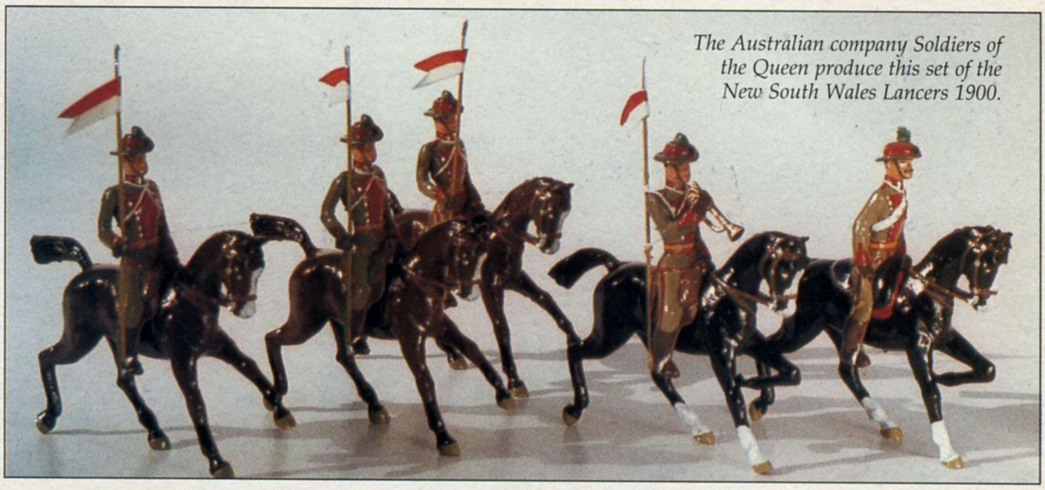
Some of you may remember my comments about the M997, both from Italeri and Revell, and its wheels. I am pleased to see now that there are, indeed, some resin replacements on sale. Armour Distribution came to my rescue with a set by MR Models from Germany. This is quite simply a set of nine wheels, four left, four right plus a spare. Just use them in place of the kit wheels. This is just one of the items available in the MR Range, which are now distributed under the banner of Accurate Armour's distribution arm. Contact Armour Distribution at Units 15-16, Kingston Industrial Estate, Port Glasgow, Scotland PA14 5DG. ■

SOLDIER BOX

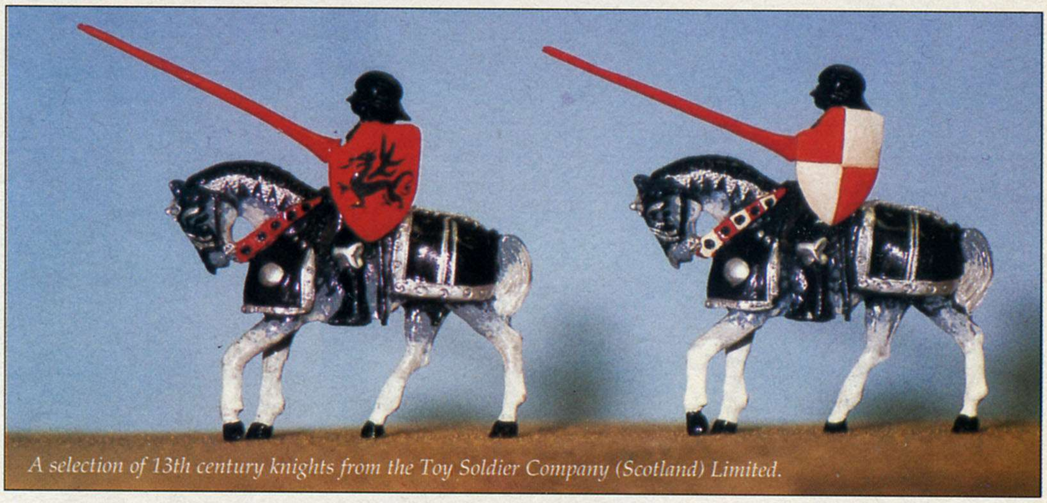
For collectors of toy soldiers with Stuart Asquith

TOY SOLDIERS

Hearts of Oak have issued this figure of Sir Richard Grenville, an Elizabethan naval officer.



The Australian company Soldiers of the Queen produce this set of the New South Wales Lancers 1900.



A selection of 13th century knights from the Toy Soldier Company (Scotland) Limited.

British Toy Soldier and Figure Show

The dates of the next two British Toy Soldier and Figure Shows are 28th June and 6th December, to be held in the customary venue of The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way in London. Details of both these events are available from the organiser Norman Joplin, 29 Greenlaw Road, Southfield Green, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 6NP.

NSW Lancers

Soldiers of the Queen (DB Figurines, PO Box 12, Spit Junction, New South Wales 2088, Australia) have opened an office in the UK, DB Figurines at Bartons, 166-170 Cromwell Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1NB (tel: 01227 273917). One of the sets the company produce (Ref S7) features the New South Wales Lancers 1900. The set consists of an officer, a trumpeter and three troopers, all of whom are mounted. The set retails for £120 plus 5% postage and packing in the UK.

Sir Richard Grenville

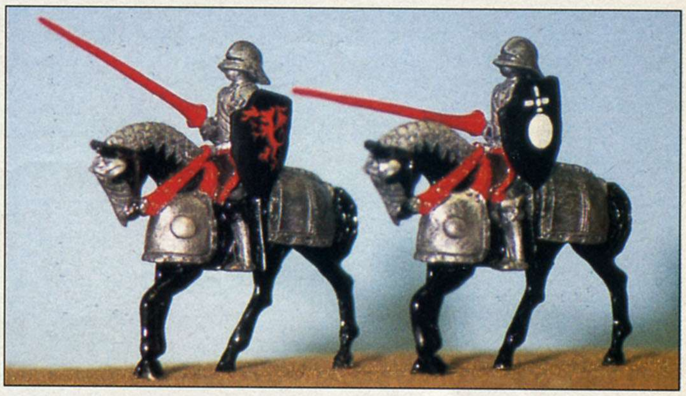
Hearts of Oak (50 Scotby Avenue, Lordswood, Chatham, Kent ME5 8ER) have made a figure of an Elizabethan naval officer based on Sir Richard Grenville. Castings are available for £3.50 plus 50p UK postage and packing. Interestingly, the sample which was received for review and is shown in the accompanying photograph was painted in oils and finished with a lacquer in place of the conventional enamel paints and it works quite well.

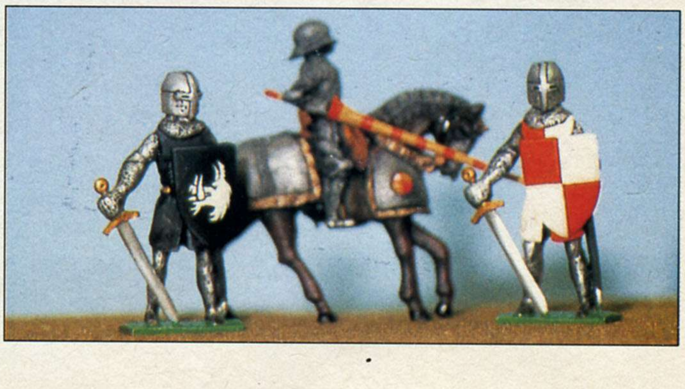
Medievals

The Toy Soldier Company (Scotland) Limited (Unit 2, 29 Rosyth Road, Glasgow G5 0YD) produce a limited range of 13th century knights. Each boxed set contains either six foot or four cavalry hand painted figures and retails at £42 post free in the UK. Overseas US$75 including mail and insurance.

Napoleon's Cuirassiers

Trophy Miniatures Wales Ltd (Unit 4, Vale Enterprise Centre, Hayes Road, Sully, Penarth, South Glamorgan CF64 5SY) have re-designed and enlarged their range of French cuirassiers of the Napoleonic era. The first releases feature the 3rd and 9th Regiments, mainly as single boxed items. There are three troopers depicted at the gallop,





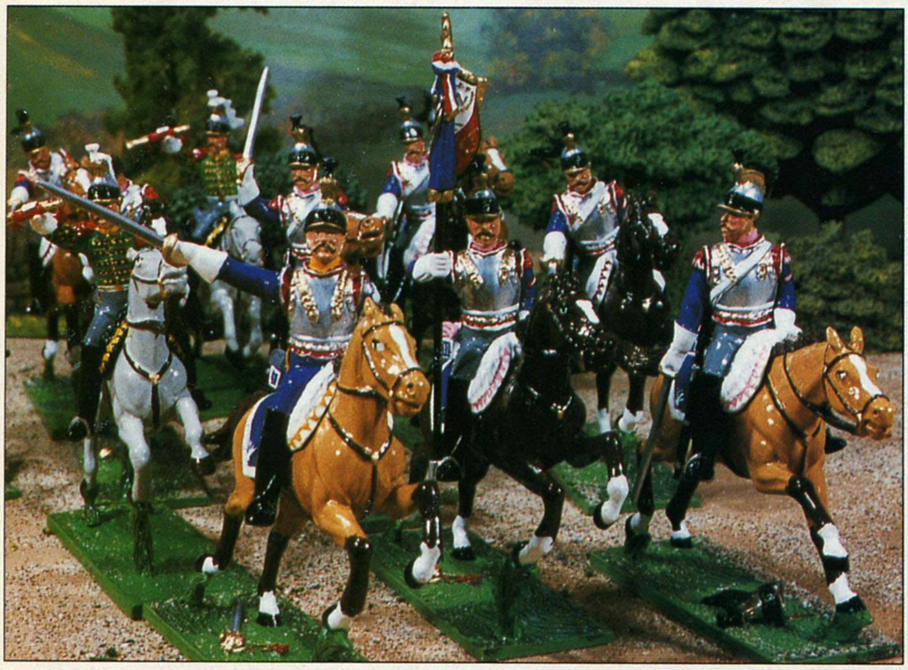
either with sword pointing forward (Ref WA10A), pointing down (WA10B) and raised (WA10C), as well as a boxed set of all three (WA10X). There is an officer with a drawn sword (WA10D), a senior NCO carrying the eagle and standard (WA10EA), a sergeant (WA10G) and a wounded trooper (WA10H). There are a number of trumpeters - an 'ordinary' type (WA10F), a trumpet major for the 3rd (WA10K) and 9th (WA10M) Regiments and a corporal trumpeter also for the 3rd (WA10L) and 9th (WA10N) Regiments.

Dorset Soldiers

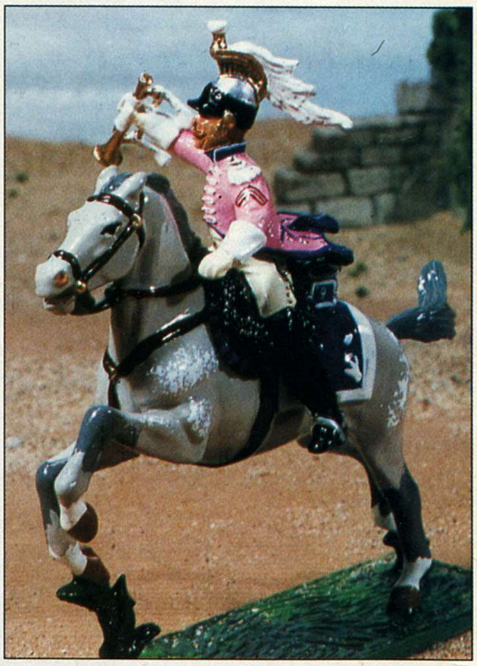
Dorset Soldiers (PO Box 2112, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 7YD) feature a number of what could be termed 'native' sets in their range of boxed sets of painted figures. Two examples are Set 1811 and Set 1816. Set 1811 (£37.50) features the Dervish infantry c1885-90, with a kneeling (wounded) flag bearer and five Dervishes of different types, all in action poses. Set 1816 (£31.80) offers four mounted Arabs and actually comes in four variants; as Arabs with a flag and four men with swords or with jezail and spears; or as Dervishes with again the two optional variants. As usual with Dorset Soldiers, all of these figures are available as unpainted castings, where arms can generally be mixed and matched as required.

Plastic Warrior

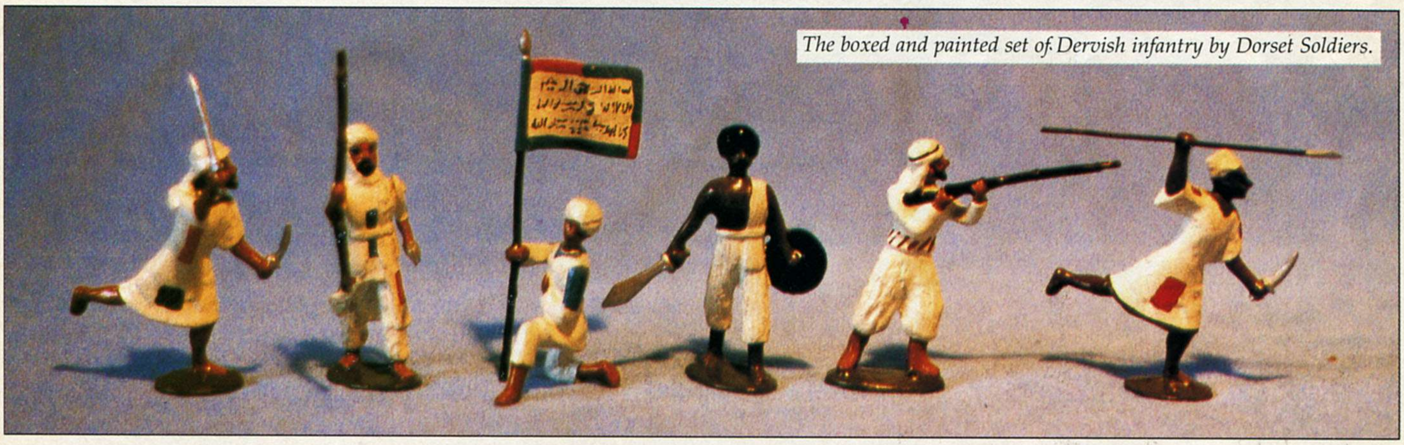
For the collector of old and new 54mm plastic figures Volume 10 No 59. Toy and Hobby Fair; Johillco Plastics; Mystery Figures; Meet Your Maker etc. Details Plastic Warrior, 65 Walton Court, Woking, Surrey GU21 5EE. ■



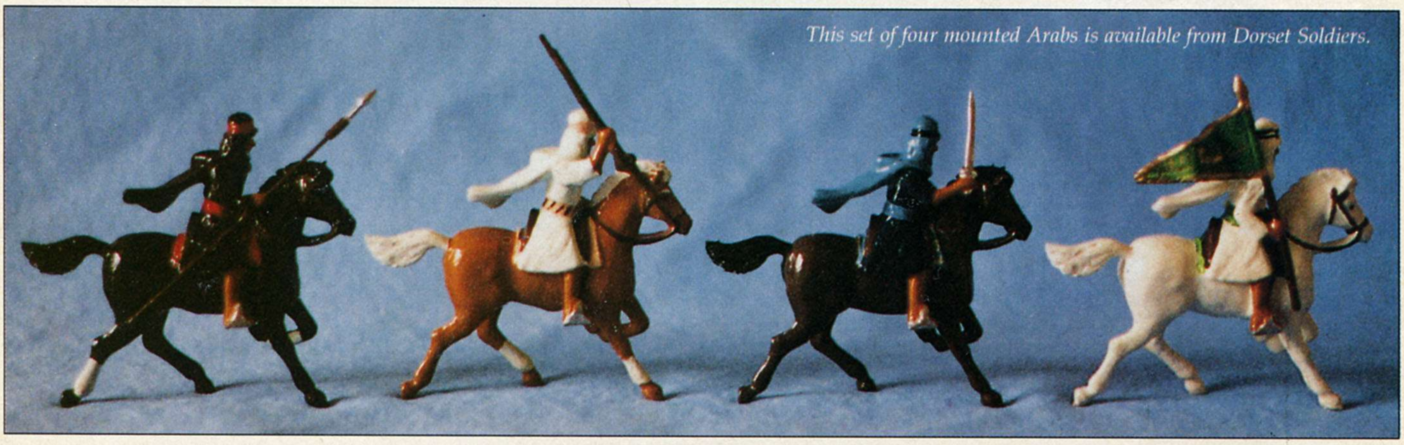
A group of French Napoleonic cuirassiers, utilising a number of sets produced by Trophy Miniatures Wales Ltd.



A French Napoleonic cuirassier trumpeter of the 3rd Regiment, by Trophy Miniatures Wales Ltd.



The boxed and painted set of Dervish infantry by Dorset Soldiers.



This set of four mounted Arabs is available from Dorset Soldiers.

1. Lester Plaskitt's PzKpfw III took a Gold. 2. 'Corunna' by Harry Heavisides. 3. Blackfoot Warrior gained a Bronze for Brian Snaddon. 4. 'Blood on the Plains' took a Silver for David Mitchell. 5. This ACW Zouave won Silver for Alan Thomson. 6. & 6a. T'ang Dynasty Guard Officer c.AD 850 won Gold for Derek Holmes. 7. Minamoto no kuro Yoshitsune by R. Alsop. 8. Gold and Best in Show for Alan Thomson's 'Edmund Crouchback'.

SWORD & LANCE

Steve Kirtley reports on the recent model show in Darlington

Over the years, Sword & Lance has earned a reputation as a high quality model show and this year proved to be no exception. This year there was the usual assortment of trade stands and displays, as well as the top-notch competition where several award winning models from last year's Euro-Militaire were on display.

The Show gives the chance to meet old friends (and new!) at an enthusiasts' event. Every year comment is made about the relaxed atmosphere, the combination of good company and a good venue. I can share in all of this, except it does get a bit hectic for the host club members at times!

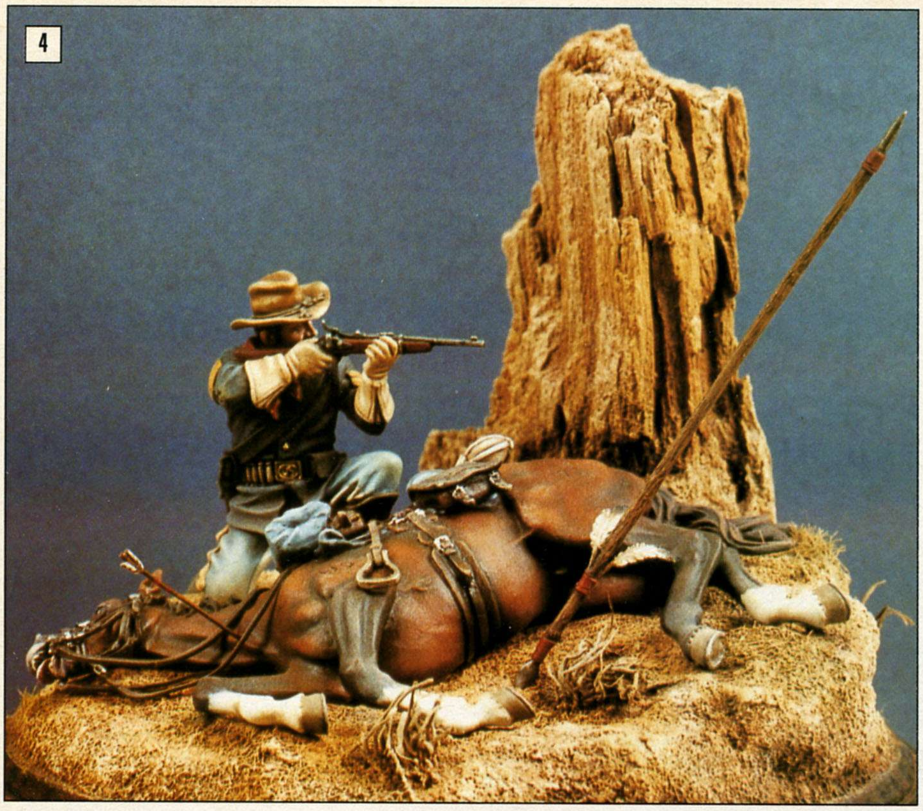
'Jewel in the Crown'

The painting competition is undoubtedly the 'Jewel in the Crown' of the Show and attracts modellers from far and wide to display their work and also to view that of their fellows. Once again the figure classes proved particularly well-supported and it is here that I will begin with my personal highlights and observations on the Show. It is impossible to cover everything on display, so my apologies for undoubtedly many omissions! The awards were again on a merit basis with models receiving the award achieved - i.e. not 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.

The class with the largest number of entries was that for Figure Painters. There were two Gold awards made, the first going to Alan Thomson from West of Scotland Modellers for his 'Edmund Crouchback', this model also winning 'Best in Show'. This latter award is decided on a democratic vote of all the competitors and the judges, meaning that Alan won this on the popular decision of his peers. The model was very well-painted with the heraldic designs being particularly fine. The groundwork set the whole off superbly - an excellent rendition of the popular Andrea knight. Alan also won Silver with a nice Shenandoah A.C.W. Zouave, 1864 as well as a further four Bronze awards. The other Gold went to Pete Watson for an excellent version of the Border Miniatures' Mounted Reiver, sculpted by Keith Durham. Keith himself was at the show and certainly approved of the treatment his fine work had received at Pete's hands! Slightly modified by the addition of a beard and a cloak, the reiver was depicted clad against the foulest border weather, his horse walking up a stream bed (to avoid detection?) The groundwork was perfectly executed - the whole thing painted a believable picture. Pete also won three Silvers with his Norman Mercenary, Henry Tudor and also Maximilian, together with a Bronze for Russian Mercenary.

'North of the Border'

There were many other fine models earning Silver awards, some just a whisker away from achieving Gold. A further three went 'North of the Border' - two to Brian Snaddon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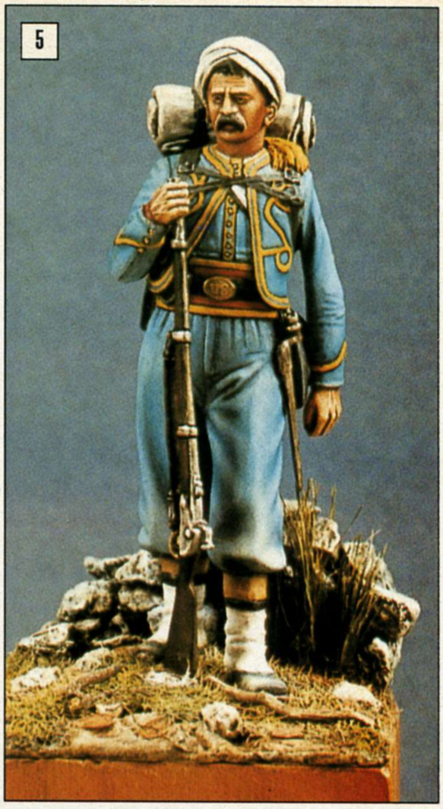
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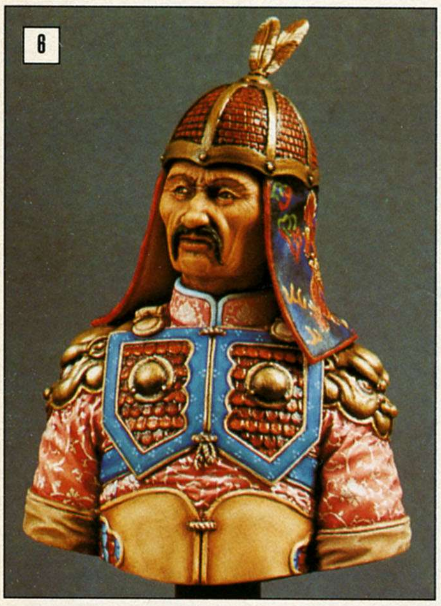
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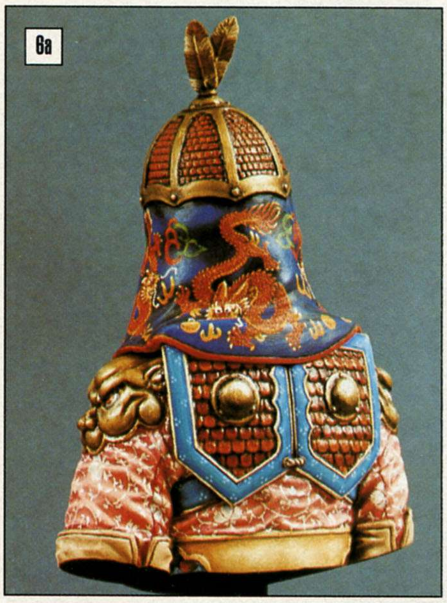
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and one to David Mitchell. Brian had a superb Elite Miniatures 93rd Highlander bust on which the flesh tones had to be seen to be believed. This model also caught the eye of the White Rose Society who give their own shield at Sword & Lance - a worthy winner of this prestigious award. A further Silver was gained by Brian's Greek Hoplite. A Pegaso model, the detail painting was very skilfully handled. Brian also gained Bronze with another bust, this time the perennially popular Poste Militaire 'Blackfoot Warrior'.

David Mitchell won Silver with 'Blood on the Plains', a convincing piece depicting a dismounted US cavalry trooper. You could almost hear the pounding hooves of the Plains Indians' ponies bearing down on him! The groundwork was excellent without taking anything away from the impact of the story being told. David also won Bronze for a nicely painted version of Beneito's Spanish 'Piguero 1498'.

Norman Otty achieved a Silver and two Bronzes; Silver for 'Horns of the Blood Warrior', a splendid version of Poste Militaire's Blackfoot warrior bust - the trailing feathers were particularly well done. Bronzes were for 93rd Highlander, another Elite bust and also for Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk.

Your correspondent earned two Silvers for Trumpeter, 7th Cuirassiers (recently the subject of an article in this magazine) and also Officer, 5th Hussars. Another Napoleonic piece utilising the Metal Modeles 90mm Dismounted Hussar with a the horse from Poste Militaire's Hussar Trumpeter. There was one further Silver awarded to Terry Neesham for 'Like Hungry Wolves'. Bronzes also went to Adrian Hopwood for Ramses and also Steve Reynolds for Algerian Zouave. Many other fine models were on display and worthy of merit - my apologies for not commenting on every one!

Quality shone through

Moving now to the military modelling section for conversions and scratch built models. There were fewer entries here as might perhaps be expected, however, the quality again shone through. Two Golds were awarded, both to Derek Holmes, a fitting reward following a long journey north from Leicestershire. My favourite of the two was T'ang Dynasty Guard Officer c.AD 850, a bust that rewarded careful examination.

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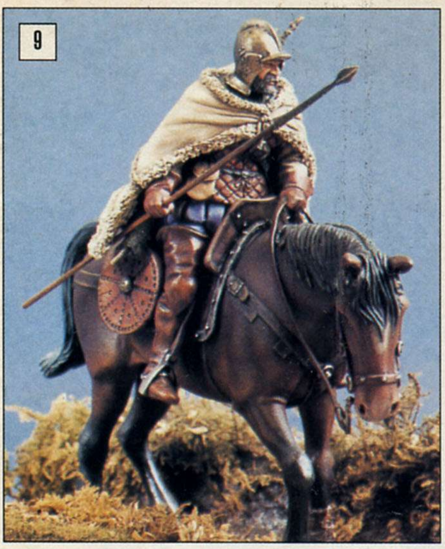
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9. Pete Watson's Gold winning Border Reiver.
10. Greek Hoplite by Alan Thomson.
11. This T-34 won Silver for Howard Marshall.
12. Len Swaisland's German RSO.
13. Officer French 5th Hussars won Silver for Steve Kirtley.

From the front impressive enough, but when viewed from the rear, the detailed painting of the patterned cloth of the uniform was a revelation! Prince John Plantagenet earned the other Gold, well known as a commercially available figure (and a popular one judging by the number seen at various shows), Derek had again completed a first class paint job here. There were also three Silver awards firstly for Vlad Tepes by Chris Keogh, Temporary Roadblock by Richard Alsop and finally Magua by Adrian Hopwood.

Vehicles

Sadly the vehicle class was, again, less well-supported in terms of numbers of entries, but not in terms of skill displayed. Lester Plaskitt gained Gold with a *Panzer III*. Lester had paid his usual attention to detail to this model, with the figures casually, but effectively posed - altogether a convincing piece. Silvers went to Howard Marshall for his T-34 and also to Adrian Hopwood for his Oshkosh HEMTT.

Aircraft

The Aircraft section produced four Silver awards, two for Fred Martin with a Phantom and also Dragon's Ju 886-7. A Sabre won one for G. Bullock, and a P-38 Lightning took the fourth for Paul Smith. There were no less than 10 Bronze awards.

'Miscellaneous'

The 'Miscellaneous' section produced a further Gold for Pete Watson and three Silvers, one for Julian Porelli, and two for Adrian Hopwood. The Intermediate section had a Gold for S Robinson, and Silvers for Wendy Dixon, Vicky Hirst and G.E. Baines.

Junior encouragement

For some years now we have tried to encourage junior modellers and it was pleasing to see several good entries in the Junior Class. ***Military Modelling*** kindly donated three awards of a year's subscriptions for the magazine to be awarded here. The worthy winners of these were Michael Watson, Kathryn and Natalie Hirst(Award shared) and Michelle Climo. There was also a Silver award given to Paul Johnson as well as a further eight Bronze awards. Well done to all of you and all of the junior competitors at Sword & Lance.

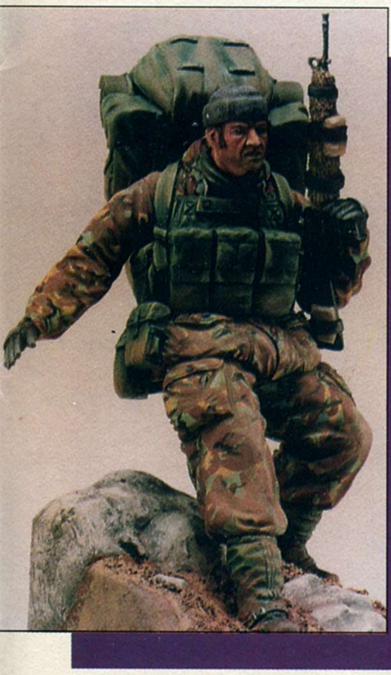
Acknowledgements

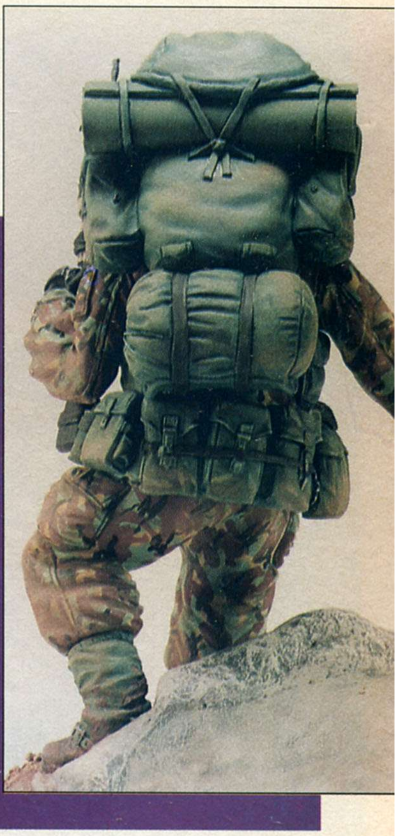
The day passes all too quickly especially for the host club members - between manning the door, competition entries and writing out the certificates, etc., there is always something to be done! Special thanks must go to Colin Holmes, Club Secretary who always takes on the lion's share and also to Richard Wharton of Oakwood Studios who again provided the bases for the superb Gold award trophies. I hope everyone who attended enjoyed the day, I certainly did and I hope to see you at Sword & Lance in 1998. ■

ATTEN-SHUN!

The Editor welcomes product samples for review which should be sent to the Editorial Offices, Nexus House Boundary Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP2 7ST. Unless a prior arrangement has been made with the Editor, review samples will not be returned.

NEW PRODUCTS REVIEWED





The Imperial Gallery

The latest 120mm figure kit to be released by the Imperial Gallery is IG/A/34, a soldier of the Royal Marines Special Boat Squadron, Falklands war.

The kit is cast in cream colour polyurethane resin with the M16 rifle, rope's end and toggle, and commando knife cast in white metal. The figure is convincingly posed, descending a slope and an appropriately configured cast scenic base is included for this purpose. The feet are cast into the base where the legs locate to achieve the correct attitude and angle of descent intended by the kit's designer.

There are some small plugs left from the casting process to remove before assembly, but it all goes together easily enough and fit of parts is good. A massive Bergen rucksack with many attachments is included which adds considerable bulk and urgency to the attitude of the completed figure. Detail is excellent; crisp and well-defined where it represents clothing and more sharper where rigid materials such as webbing and straps occur. It is a good choice of subject, well-designed, cast and produced. Postage and packing on mail orders in the UK and EU is free. Elsewhere add 15%.

K.M.J.

Price £28

The Imperial Gallery, 14 Queenswood Drive, Norton Park, Worcester WR5 3SZ.

Scale Models

Do you have a decent source of illumination for your modelling - especially if you paint miniature figures? Natural daylight is the best light source, but it isn't always available or convenient to modellers' habits. The best substitute is an electric light source as near to natural daylight as possible and Scale Models 'Modelite' is just such a lamp that gives an equivalent light output to a 75 Watt 6ft fluorescent lamp.

This table lamp runs off a mains supply, but uses a low energy consumption tube. The on-off rocker switch is integral with the top of the shade and a step-down power unit plugs directly into the mains to run the lamp on a reduced voltage. This, in turn, reduces the running temperature which protects against heat radiation over prolonged modelling sessions. A starter unit is incorporated in the head and the manufacturers claim a 6,000 to 8,000 hours life for the bulb unit.

Over a week I've run tests on the lamp over of a few hours duration in comparison with my normal artificial light source for modelling - a 100 Watt rated adjustable desk lamp with a 100 Watt Blue North Light bulb. Alongside each other the difference was and still is minimal, in fact, it's scarcely perceptible, at least to my eyes, but taking into account the more powerful 100 Watt Blue Bulb.

I found the Modelite excellent for painting miniatures; its narrow multi-directional angle head can be placed just where you need it. I have to wear magnifying half frame spectacles for close up work and thus the model I'm working on is a bit nearer my head than I would like, and therefore the light follows it. In the proximity of my hands and head I found the low operating temperature didn't distract or annoy me or emit too much heat radiation from the nearby lamp.

The adjustable arm swivels on a heavy, weighted base (a socket with horizontal or vertical axes that clamps to a table is optional) and is adjustable vertically and laterally under spring pressure with tightening clamps at the light head and the 'knee' bend of the arm.

What I really like about the light is it is smaller than my existing light and doesn't take up as much room. With the table clamp fitted it takes up even less space making it very unobtrusive to the work area. I even put the clamp on a shelf over my working area, testing for a limited space fitting, and inserted the lamp into the horizontal axis on the clamp fitting, creating a pendulum arrangement that I could easily adjust the light to where I wanted it. Handy if you have shelves on the wall behind the space you do your modelling in.

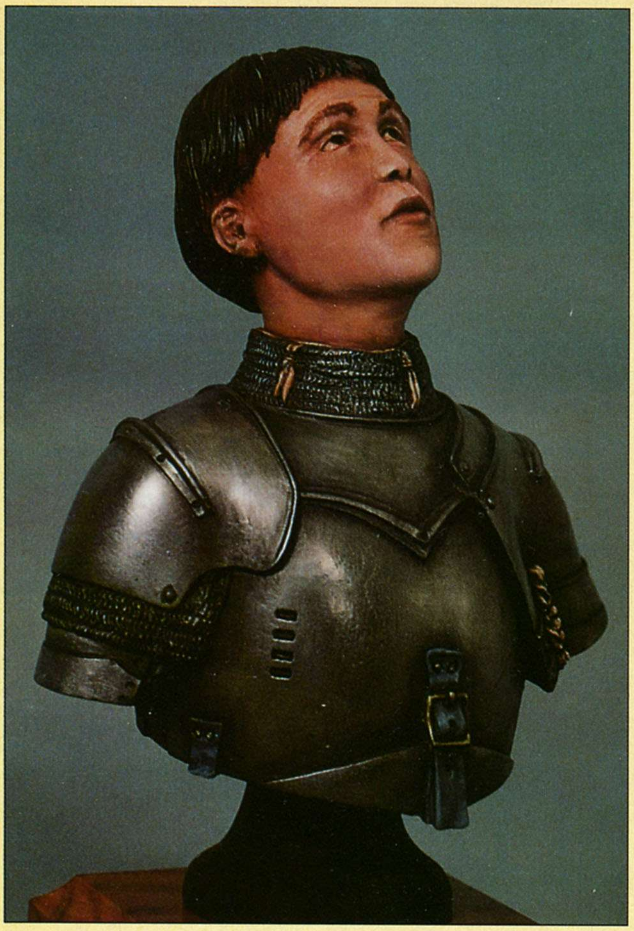
If you use the weighted base, however, it can double as a small storage area with its three recessed 'trays', handy for small items, such as pin chucks which won't roll away or for keeping modelling knives and scalpels out of the way.

I'm impressed with its neat appearance; it's small and its light output is suitable for the majority of modelling tasks.

K.M.J.

Price £47.95 (Bulb £17)

Scale Models, 124 Ellan Hay Road,
Bradley Stoke South,
Bristol BS12 0HB.



United Empire Miniatures

A new manufacturer to our column, United Empire Miniatures, are based in Marietta, Georgia in the United States of America. Jon D. Lea is the man behind this new enterprise and the company's first release is a 250mm bust of Joan of Arc (Jeanne d'Arc) 1429, sculpted by Agustin J. (Augie) Rodriguez, a name and whose models readers may recall from American show reports featured in this magazine.

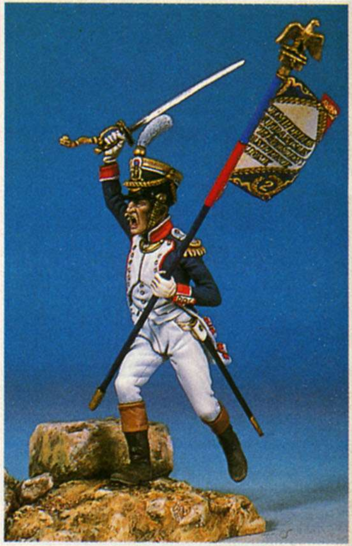
The bust is a one-piece casting which includes a pedestal type base. For an effective final display a wooden or other type of base (not supplied) will be required. The bust is cast in 'butter-coloured' polyurethane resin, which shows good definition and crisp detail. In short it has crisp sharp edges where they're needed and smooth rounded ones where they should occur. The face is of a young girl, with a 15th century tonsure, in armour, gazing upwards. No one knows what Joan of Arc really looked like, but you can make yourself believe this is her once you've painted it; and rest assured, no one can refute your claim in miniature either! There have been miniature figures of Joan of Arc, however, this is the first miniature bust I've seen and I do like the model. If you're an out and out, unashamed painter, who doesn't like sticking bits together, filling joins, etc., before you pick up a brush then you'll like this one. It has the best of all worlds - flesh and armour to practice your skills and techniques upon.

Augie Rodriguez has produced a super commercial model and Jon Lea is to be complimented on the comprehensive instruction sheet and presentation of his 'first kit'. I know of no UK stockist, but hopefully someone will take it on after reading this. You'll have to buy it direct from United Empire Miniatures and the price quoted is $32.95 which is going to be more than £20, plus postage. Telephone 770-971-9052 or Email:johnlea@mindspring.com for more information.

K.M.J.

Price in text

United Empire Miniatures, P.O. Box 669051, Marietta, GA 30066, USA.



Andrea Miniatures

Four new additions to the 'Napoleonic Wars' series are currently on release from Andrea, Spain's premier miniature figure manufacturer. The figures are 54mm and cast in high grade white metal, in kit form.

All figures are designed by F. Andrea and cover two French soldiers a Scottish Highlander and a Spanish guerilla.

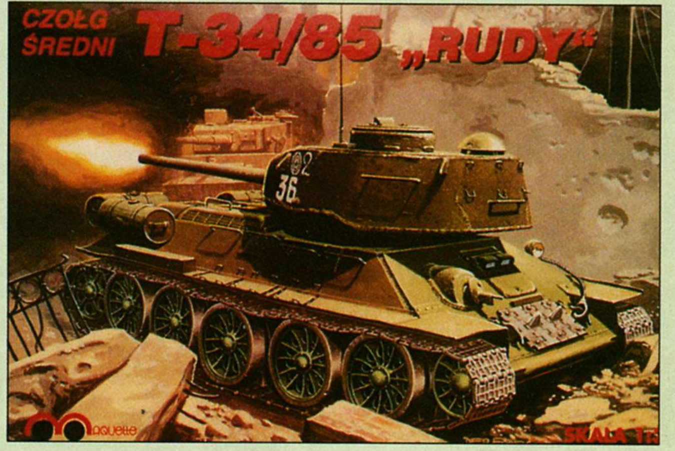
S7-F3 (£14.25/ptas.2,050)is a French Major of the 2nd Line Regiment, 1809 advancing sword raised with and eagle standard and flag in his left hand. A full colour printed flag for the 1st Battalion 2nd Line is included in the kit. The pose isn't overdone,

RPM

W.J. Gawrych of Model Centrum in Warsaw, Poland has a new 1:35 scale kit of the Russian T34/85 tank manufactured by Polish maker RPM. This is an entirely new kit from RPM Maquette, moulded in a light grey (at last!) polystyrene plastic, and comes complete with separate track links, also cast in polystyrene plastic. These are the spudded track links with teeth on every other link; plain and toothed links are included, so ensure you assemble them correctly as per the instruction sheet. I'd suggest assembling them in lengths, bottoms, tops and separate runs around sprockets and idlers. The track mouldings are extremely good and look the part.

The box carries the name 'Rudy' (Red Hair), which Mr Gawrych tells me was the nickname of the T-34 star of a Polish TV serial of the 1960s. It's also a subject of one of the kit's markings option on the decal sheet. An interesting 'one-liner' on the instruction sheet states 'The V2 diesel for T-34 as a separate kit.' An engine compartment bulkhead is, however, included and the engine compartment grilles and hatches, and rear plate are all separate parts. The cooling flaps over the engine compartment, under the rear grille can be positioned in any position between opened and closed. The only internal detail included is a detailed breech for the 85mm gun.

Some of the moulded detail is extremely fine whereas some areas are a little 'thick eared' revealing a very slight loss in overall quality, but nevertheless, this is a good kit of the T34/85.

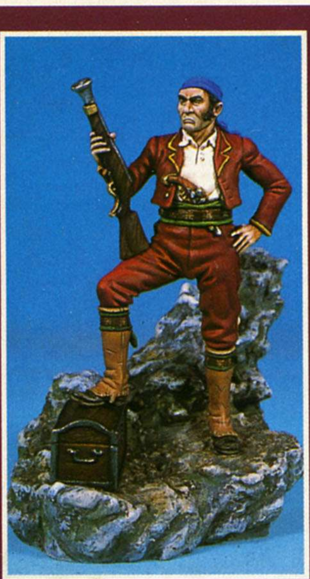


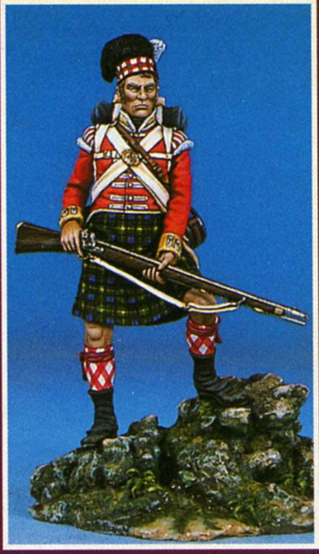
It won't break the bank pricewise either, costing £16.95 plus 25% p&p (surface) from Model Centrum who take Visa, Eurocard/Mastercard and American Express, which makes ordering very easy.

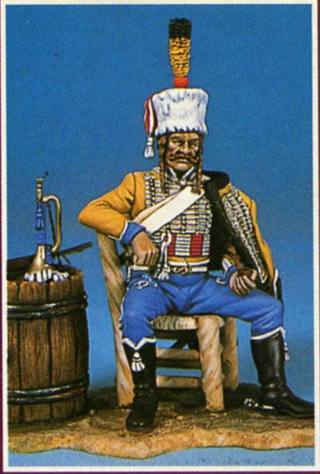
K.M.J.

Price in text

Model Centrum, Nowowiejska 4m. 10, 00-649 Warsaw, Poland.







it's just right and the designer hasn't gone over the top with the animation and he's got the flapping coat tails just right. A substantial cast scenic base is included.

S7-F4 (£13.50/ptas.2,000) is a 92nd (Gordon) Highlander 1815, casually posed stood on a rocky terrain, his feather bonnet on the back of his head in a very 'unjocklike' manner, which isn't to say it is incorrect. He's in full marching order and his uniform needs a very complicated paint job; a kilt in 54mm not being an easy thing to do. The Gordons had a Government pattern tartan, similar to the 42nd (Black Watch), but with a yellow overstripe.

S7-F5 (£13.75/ptas.2,000) is the Spanish Guerrillero 1807-1814, defiantly posed, right foot on a small wooden chest, hefting a blunderbuss type weapon in his right hand, butt down onto his raised right upper leg. He appears to be posed for having his picture painted. Now there's a thought for adding a second figure and producing an interesting vignette with an early civilian 'war correspondent' or perhaps a British officer, sketching the guerilla for the 'penny dreadfuls' back in Britain. This one has a really substantial cast scenic base.

S7-F6 (£13.50/ptas.2,300) is the pick of the crop for me, he's a French trumpeter of the 9th *(bis)* Hussars, c.1812 seated on a chair with his trumpet and carbine on the top of an upended wooden barrel next to him. Pose and composition of the parts is excellent and the big plus is, of course, as a trumpeter, his uniform has reversed colours, the 9th having yellow dolman and pelisse with light blue trousers and the trumpeter's white colpack or busby head-dress. This figure just cries out to have a diorama built up around him with, perhaps, an inn as a backdrop. Stretch your imagination with this one, but posed singly he's still very impressive.

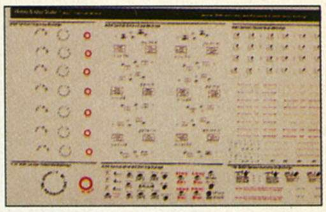
Detail on these Andrea figures is very good, the castings are clean and crisp and fit of parts is good, only a wipe of filler will be needed on some joins, but they're such colourful subjects making them a joy to paint.

Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ stock the Andrea Miniatures range.

K.M.J.

Prices in text

Andrea S.L., Maestro Zudaire,
S/N, Los Negrales, Villalba,
28409 Madrid, Spain.



Hudson & Allen Studio

Model Search International have sent samples of some new decals in the Hudson & Allen Studios range. These are for 1:35/1:32 scales and cover WWII US Gas Mask and Small Arms Box Markings (9622) and WWII German Anti-tank, Anti-personnel and Small Arms Markings, (9623) both are printed in basic colours - black, white, yellow and red. The decals cover the type of stencilled instructions or descriptions found on ammunition boxes and weapons and, in the case of the US sheet - markings for the bag that held the gas mask.

There's lots of markings on each sheet, which are the waterside type; cut the decal from the sheet, soak for a few seconds in warm water and slide off onto the surface, blot off excess water and smooth the decal down. Waterside transfers work best on a gloss painted surface rather than matt and when dried need a protective coat of varnish - gloss or matt.

Looking at the minute decals through a magnifying glass most of the legends are readable despite the unavoidable 'blocking in' on some of the smaller type which is an unfortunate limitation of the printing process. Once used though, I think you'll find it difficult to go without the realistic effect they impart to your models.

K.M.J.

Price £5.95 each plus postage
Model Search International, Hill
House, Top Road, Swindon,
Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0RP.

F&F Models

Some samples from the R&J Products and Plus Model ranges have been sent for review by UK stockists, F&F Models of Swadlicote, Derbyshire.

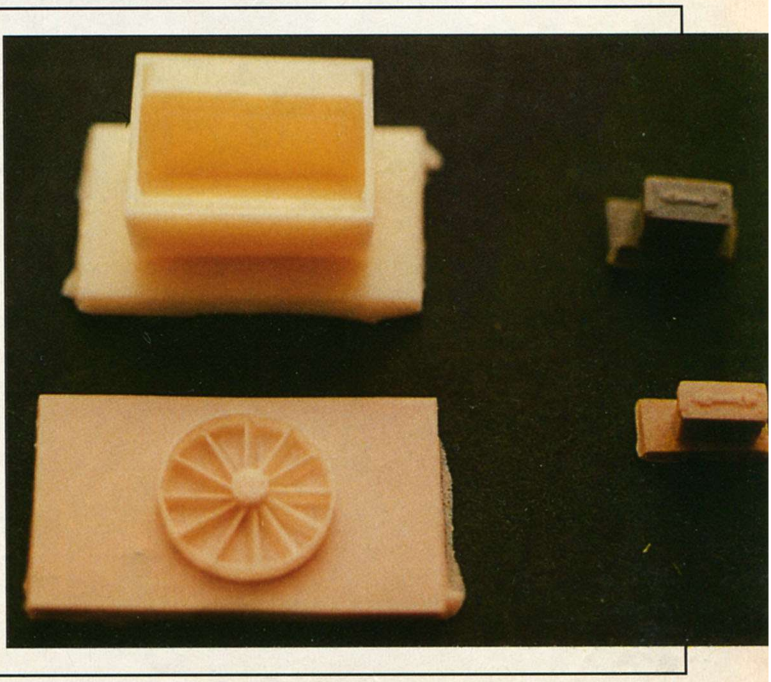
R&J Products are produced in America and the samples forwarded were cast in polyurethane resin. RJ35227 is a cooling system set for the King Tiger and *Jagdtiger,* comprising four radiator housings and two fans, suitable for Tamiya and Dragon Models' 1:35 scale kits, price £8.50. The other sample was 35231 US Ammo Boxes (Vietnam era) with five, 5.56mm (M16 clips) and five M60 ammo belt 7.62mm boxes, price £4.25. These are different to the US types used during WWII.

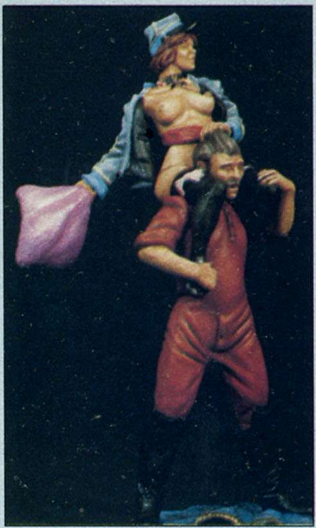
From Plus Model in the Czech Republic is a kit to update Tamiya's *SdKfz 250/3* half track to the *SdKfz 250/3 neuer art*. This conversion kit is made up of cast polyurethane resin, photo-etched brass and wire parts. Only the running gear and a few other bits of the Tamiya *SdKfz 250* are retained; the hull top, bonnet and front end details are all replaced. The mudguards are folded up from photo-etched brass, so they're beautifully thin and in scale. The resin castings are good quality and the result will be quite different to the Tamiya model built straight from the box. An illustrated instruction sheet, with dual Czech/English text is provided. Price is £19.50.

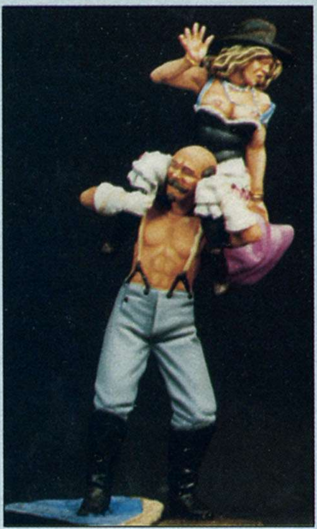
K.M.J.

Prices in text

F&F Models, 44 Bretby Road,
Newhall, Swadlincote, Derbyshire
DE11 0LJ.







El Viejo Dragón Miniaturas

Six new additions to El Viejo Dragón Miniatures' range have been sent by the Spanish manufacturer for review. All are 54mm, cast in white metal and supplied in kit form. I have no details of prices, and there does not now appear to be a UK distributor.

SA-F1 and SA-F2 are titled "Pillow Creek's Battle 1862 American Civil War" and feature soldiers with girls on their shoulders engaging in a pillow fight. Quite an amusing vignette can be arranged with this pair, whereas displayed singly they would be a bit pointless. From the arrangements of the cast scenic bases (wooden floor with a piece of a circular rug) it appears that there could be another couple of 'contestants' to go.

These two-figure figures are quite ambitious combinations. Designed by José Ramón Arredondo Sánchez, they need carefully assembly with lots of dry runs to get everything just right. Both girls locate differently onto the men's shoulders, but hands, etc., are cast onto the girls' legs to help locating the arms to the bodies much easier. One's lower torso and legs is a single casting where the other has the lower torso and legs as a two part assembly. I'd suggest getting everything fitting correctly first; then disassemble, prime and undercoat, then reassemble, fill any joins, re-undercoat where necessary and paint. Dry assembly runs will decide on the method of assembly that suits your assembly and painting techniques. They're a bit 'saucy', and because of their complex assembly they are really not kits for the beginner.

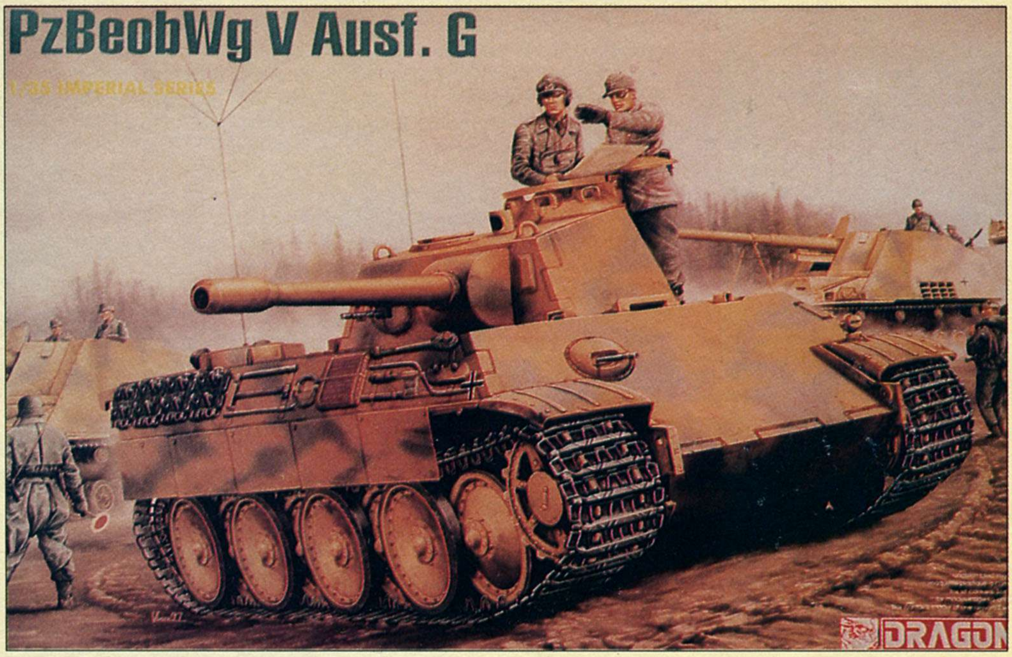
A Spanish Grenadier Officer c.1808 designed by Emillio Arredondo Sánchez (C1F12) in a spirited pose and a Roman Centurion 4th century (CG14) designed José Ramón Arredondo Sánchez in a defensive position are the two most 'uncomplicated' and straightforward figure kits of the six. The dress of the Roman field armies of the 4th century is quite different our popular conception of legionaries with bare legs, banded armour and big, rectangular shields. In fact, this one makes a refreshing change; it's still 'Roman', but it's very different to the 1st and 2nd century dress we generally associate with the soldiers of Rome. Cast scenic bases are included.

José Ramón Arredondo Sánchez (again) is responsible

Dragon Models Ltd

Continuing their practice of putting new hats on old heads Dragon have produced the *Panzerbeobachtungswagen* version of the *PzKpfw V Panther* tank in 1:35 scale, as an injection moulded plastic kit in their Imperial Series, No. 9041. The description is quite a mouthful, especially to those of us who have little or no German, and usually abbreviated to *PzBeobWg* (which is also unpronounceable) as shown on Dragon's box.

Using the existing Dragon *PzKpfw V Ausf G* Panther chassis an extra sprue (N) has been added plus the 'common' sprue (G) for the crow's foot aerial found on German command tanks. The aerial is an especially fine piece of plastic moulding, so handle it very carefully or you'll be making a replacement part from fine wire.



The new sprue has parts to adapt the face of the *Ausf G* turret to mount the dummy wooden gun and a *kugelblend* (ball mounting) for an extra, defensive 7.92mm machine-gun. The kit parts are moulded in that light grey colour polystyrene Dragon use, which is such a good and neutral medium to work in. Separate track links influenced and pioneered by Dragon throughout their range of AFV kits and copied by others, though not consistently, are provided. These single link tracks do give the modeller more flexibility (nearly a pun!) over the older system of 'rubber' band types that really never looked or hung right, especially on the Russian 'heavies' for example. Track sag, where visible, is so important in presenting a true representation of a vehicle and it's worth studying pictures of the real thing to achieve it correctly.

In true Dragon style sprues (E & F) from their *Jagdpanther* kit are included to 'keep up the numbers' and provide extra parts. There's always parts left over when you build a Dragon kit, which make welcome additions to any part-hungry spares box.

The wooden gun gives the *Panther* quite a funny side-on appearance, especially to eyes used to that slim, long 7.5cm gun barrel normally fitted. Once again, by 'modifying' an existing kit Dragon have produced a minor *Panther* variant, straight from the box, which would have appeared to be an easy first time conversion project for the modeller. Back to the library!

I see that Wonderland Models, (Dept. MMOD), 97-101 Lothian Road, Edinburgh, Scotland EH3 9AN are advertising the Dragon *PzBeobWg* kit retail price £26 for £19.99 - now there's a decent saving, but postage is extra. And they take all credit cards and Switch too; give them a ring on 0131 229 6428 to order your kit.

K.M.J.

Prices in text

Dragon Models Ltd., 603-609 Castle Peak Road, Kong Nam Industrial Building, 10/F1., B-1, Tsuen Wan, New Territories, Hong Kong.

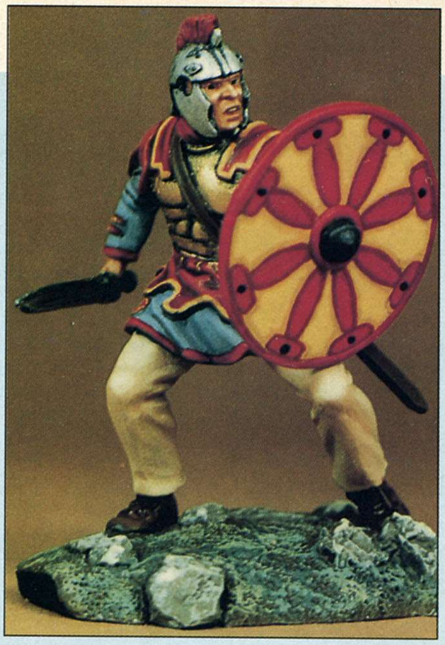
for the final pair of figure kits. C2F9 is a Landsknecht c.1527 and SA-F3 a futuristic soldier of the fancifully titled 'European Legion 21st century'. The Landsknecht is a fine pose, he's seated on a tree stump, hunched forward in a relaxed position, a tankard grasped in his left hand. Landsknechts are colourful subjects for the paintbrush, but just make sure you get your stripes on the legs straight and uniform looking in size, otherwise they will make the figure look totally out of 'balance' to the eye. The figure is intended to be included in the series 'The Plunder of Rome' to be compatible with Ref.35.210 from Alhambra Models.

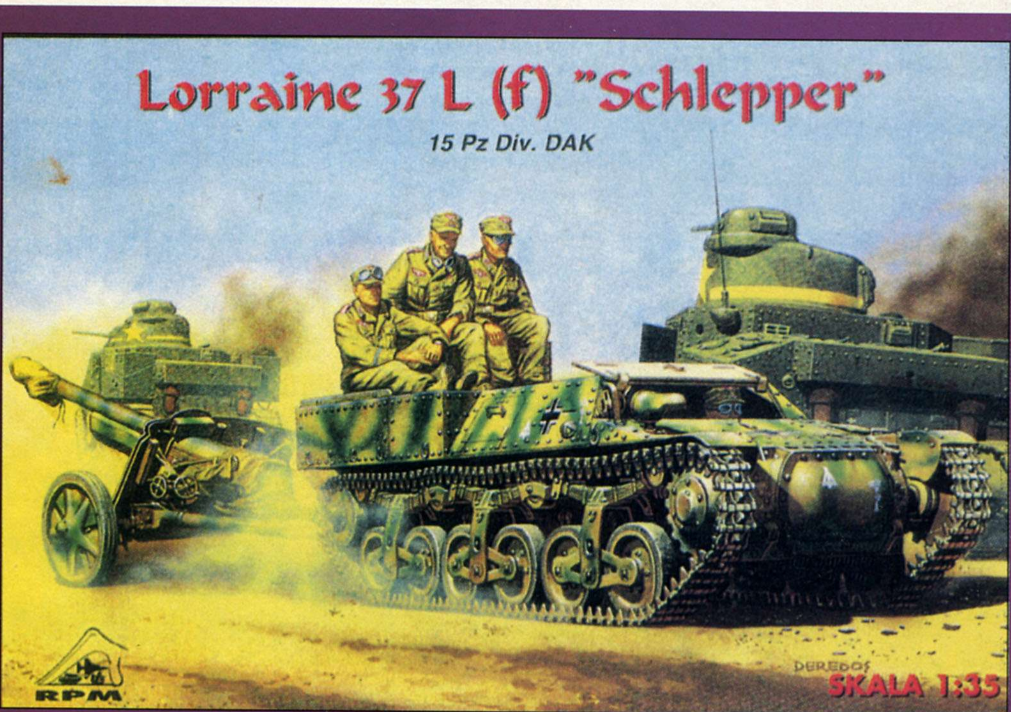
The final 'warrior' is based on the futuristic projections for what the 21st century's soldier will look like on the battlefield - 'European Legion 21st century'. This one is a bit too *Star Wars* storm trooper for me, however, it's a bit escapist for the modeller looking for something different. There's a choice of two heads - one in a helmet and goggles (Undress?) the other an all covering helmet (Full Dress?) No nationality is given for this soldier of the 'European Legion', but I'm sure modellers will think up some marking or other. He certainly wouldn't look out of place posed next to 'a correct-in-every-detail' 1:32 scale model of the Milenium Falcon! This chap certainly won't be doing much running in his present garb.

K.M.J.

Prices on application

El Viejo Dragón Miniatures, C/Margarita Nelken 11, Urb Parquelagos, 28260 Glapagar, Madrid, Spain.





RPM

The French army's *Tracteur Blinde*, the Lorraine tracked prime mover has been released as a captured version used by the *Wehrmacht* in 1:35 scale plastic injection moulded kit by Polish manufacturer RPM. The Germans captured large numbers of the Lorraine during 1940 after France capitulated, renaming them *Lorraine 37 L (f) Schlepper*. RPM have sub-titled their box art '15 Pz Div. DAK' and have supplied appropriate decals for a Lorraine of the 15th Panzer Division, *Deutsche Afrika Korps*.

W.J. Gawrych of Model Centrum in Warsaw, Poland sent the RPM kit for review which is moulded in light grey plastic, and has separate track links which, for a Lorraine in 1:35 scale, are really minute. In fact, they are tiny 'W' shaped parts, keyed to the sprue in *five* locations - each! These track links are going to take some removing from the four sprues; each has 63 links giving a total of 252. Think of the pressure you'll apply to cutting the gates routed to each link when you begin to remove each link which could cause it to either break, or fly off somewhere you'll never find it. Cut the main sprue into smaller and handier sections before you attempt to remove a single track link - and be very careful.

The instructions say 104 links are needed each side, so that leaves 44 spare track links and these will be needed as replacements for accidents and malformed or missing links. I counted about six unusable links in my kit, so there is a good safety margin.

Three sprues make up the body and suspension units; it's not a big vehicle in 1:35 scale, being around four inches (approx. 105mm) overall. Assembly is fairly straightforward, but make sure you get the four parts making up the hull bottom, two sides, a front and rear plates correctly squared up, otherwise the suspension won't sit right. Moulded details as with most RPM kits to date are sharp and crisp in most places, but here and there they are a little naive and lack the definition of the rest. It seems they can design and cast a tiny handrail or bracket in scale, but surface detail on say a roadwheel or hatch can be a bit bland leave a little to be desired. The Lorraine's suspension is quite complex with leaf springing and the shackles on the leaves are separate items - six per spring!

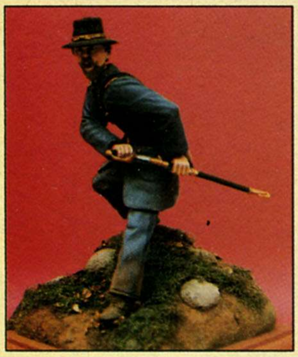
It is an interesting model which could, of course, be reworked back to a French army vehicle. Who knows, RPM may issue other versions, perhaps with the Pak 40 75mm anti-tank gun or 15cm howitzer fitted - or a gun for it to tow?

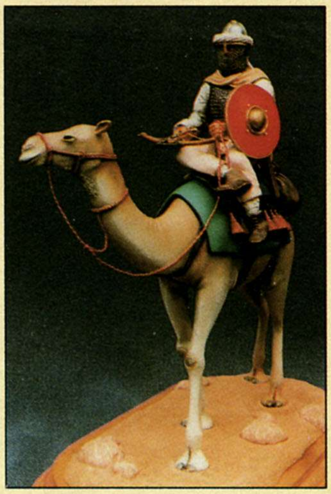
Model Centrum take Visa, Eurocard/Mastercard and American Express, which makes ordering this kit easy.

K.M.J.

Price £14.95

Model Centrum, Nowowiejska 4m. 10, 00-649 Warsaw, Poland.





Oakwood Studios

The ex-Armour Models range is now being handled by Oakwood Studios, who will be more familiar to readers for their superb, hand crafted wood display bases.

The range of figures has around 18 items, including a 1:10 scale bust and three nude academy figures. The kits are cast in cream polyurethane resin with some parts in white metal, to 90mm (1:20) and 120mm (1:15) scales.

Forwarded for review were 90/009 A 90MM Officer 6th US Infantry 1863 (£15.50), 90/006 a Muslim Cavalryman 15th Century Mounted on a Camel (£38) and AC/001 a 120mm Male Academy figure (£10).

The academy figures are recommended for modellers wishing to produce something not covered by kit makers and very useful for trying your hand at the rudiments of scratch building by 'dressing' the figure with Milliput or similar to achieve a 'one off' model. There's a choice of three heads, bare or booted feet and the limbs can be articulated until the pose is perfected then all joins secured with super glue.

The kit of a Union officer descending a slope as he draws his sword forms part of a set of five 90mm figures of the American Civil War. These can be posed collectively or singly and the New York Zouave would add a touch of colour with his red shirt in a sea of dark blue coats. There is a double figure set of a soldier tending a wounded officer and thus double the price at £30.

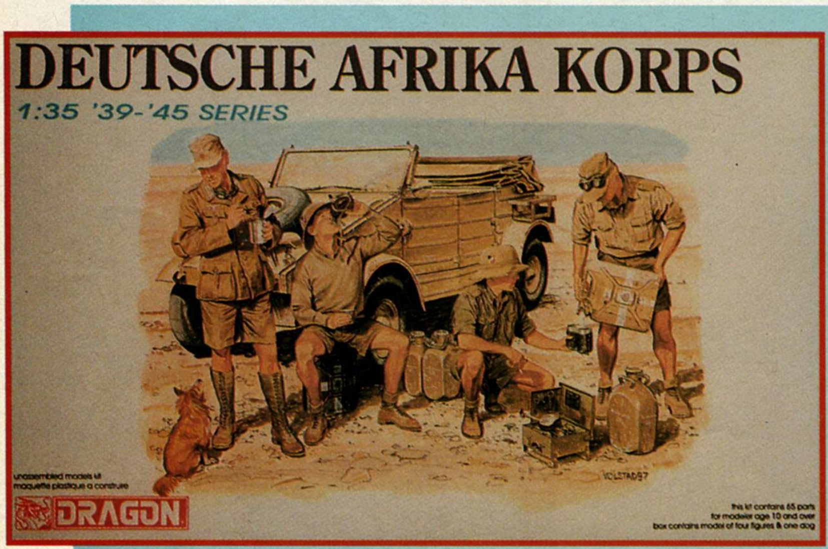
The Muslim Camel Cavalryman is quite impressive, seated leg crooked around the saddle pommel on a Dromedary and armed with a crossbow. A most unusual choice of subject which assembles from a lot of nicely detailed parts. It would make a good centre point in a collection of medieval figures, especially compared with the differently accoutred European fighting men of this period.

Post and packing on mail orders is 10% extra.

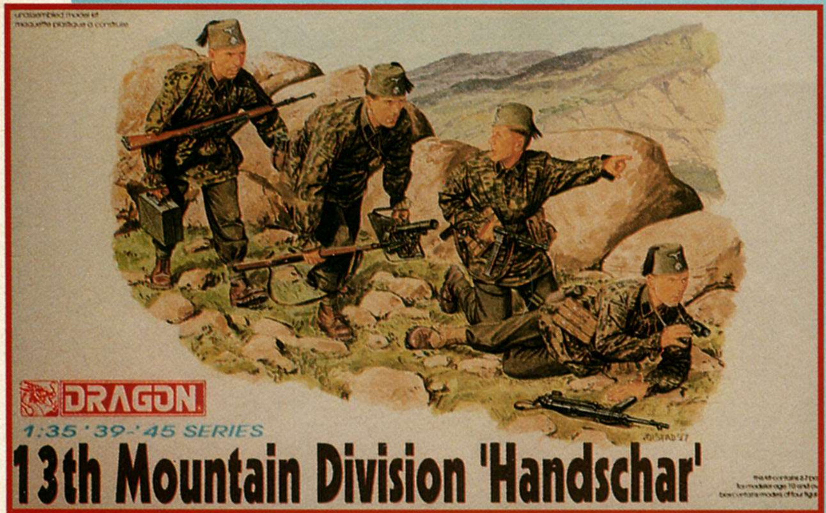
K.M.J.

Prices in text

Oakwood Studios, R. & R. Wharton, 396 Ring Road, Beaston Park, Middleton, Leeds LS10 4NX.



DEUTSCHE AFRIKA KORPS
1:35 '39-'45 SERIES
unassembled models kit
maquette plastique a construire
VOLSTAD'97
DRAGON
this kit contains 65 parts
for modeler age 10 and over
box contains model of four figures & one dog



unassembled model kit
maquette plastique a construire
DRAGON
1:35 '39-'45 SERIES
13th Mountain Division 'Handschar'

Dragon Models Ltd

Two more 1:35 scale figure kits in the '39-'45 Series have been released by Dragon Models Ltd - 6063 are German *Afrika Korps* and 6067 13th Mountain Division *Handschar*. Both boxes have the figures on sprues in kit form, moulded in light grey polystyrene, each having four complete figures plus accessories.

The *Afrika Korps* set comprises two standing, one sitting and one squatting figure. Two of the figures are intended to be grouped into an interesting little vignette, where one pours water from a jerrycan into the cup of the squatting figure. The sitting figure (sat on a jerrycan) is drinking from his field flask, whereas the standing figure is eating from a tin can with a small dog in attendance. These are the intended poses, per the box illustrations, though innovative modellers will soon think up some alternative poses and uses. Accessories included are a dog, a small field stove, jerrycans and 18-litre and 10-litre water containers and other small bits of kit - even a 'wee beastie' in the form of some kind of desert lizard.

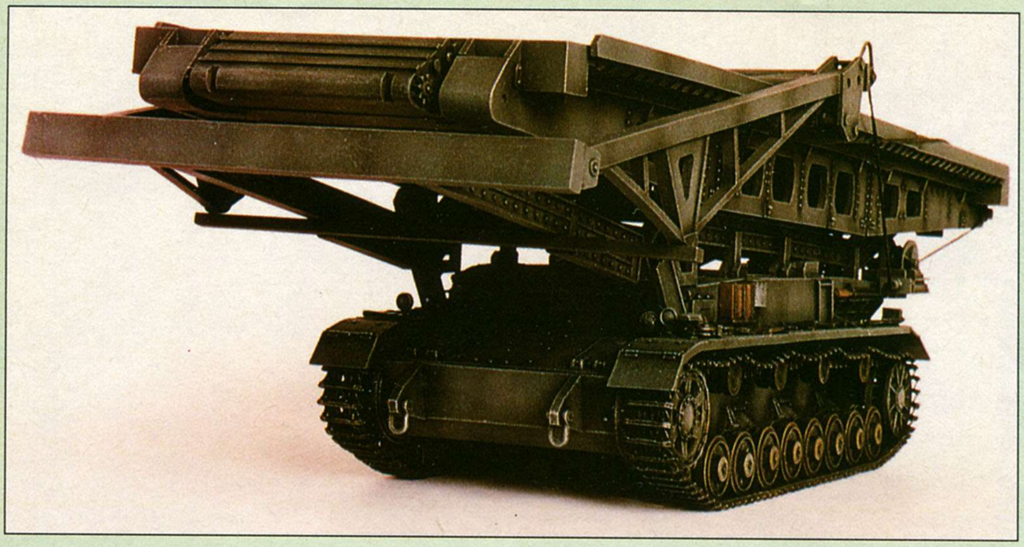
A decal sheet is provided to put white crosses on jerrycans to signify their use is for water only. A *kübelwagen* is shown in Ron Volstad's boxtop illustration, and the four figures, including a 1:35 scale *kübel* would make a small, but super diorama of a 'refreshment stop'. Think about it.

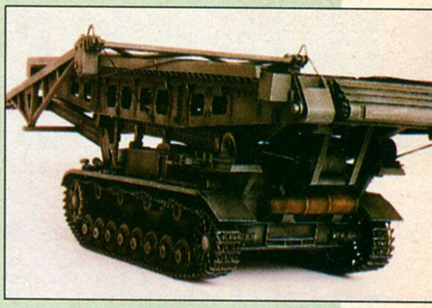
The *Handschar* quartet make a welcome addition to Dragon's 1:35 scale '39-'45 range. These Moslem troops wore the fez (or *tarboosh*) head-dress, mountain boots and styrian gaiters and served in the Wehrmacht as the 13th Mountain Division. Otherwise they were equipped with German arms and equipment. The figures in the kit are in action poses, two standing advancing, one kneeling and one recumbent. Weapons are Mauser *Kar 98K* rifles and MP-40 submachine-guns. An extra sprue is included for the light 5cm mortar, the *leichter Granatwerfer 36 (l.Gr.W.36)*, with ammunition box and bombs. This mortar needed two men to transport it and its ammunition and a third man for setting up loading and firing. The attitude of the figure's show the mortar in transit, probably from one firing position to another, assembled and carried in one piece by one man, whereas the other carries the bombs in their special case. Bags of conversion potential here and very good value at £5.99 a box (Wonderland Models price) of four figures.

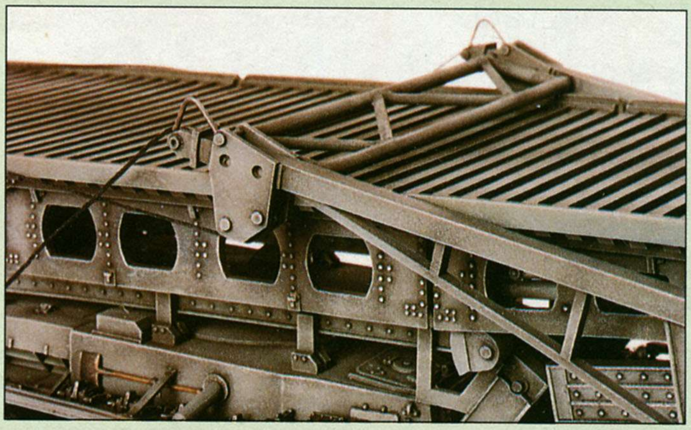
K.M.J.

Price in text

Dragon Models Ltd., 603-609 Castle Peak Road, Kong Nam Industrial Building, 10/F1., B-1, Tsuen Wan, New Territories, Hong Kong.







On Track Model Company

A complete kit of a German armoured bridgelayer, to 1:35 scale, cast in polyurethane resin has just been released by the On Track Model Company in Hong Kong. The model represents the *Brükenleger* designed in 1940 by Krupp to an order for 12 requested for service in the French campaign. It is thought only two units were completed and used in France during 1940. The vehicle chosen to carry and launch the nine-metre bridge was an adapted *PzKpfw IV Ausf D* tank with its turret removed.

This is a complex model kit of many parts designed by Thompson Lam with a fully detailed chassis and bridge which assembles very similarly to a plastic injection moulded kit. I wouldn't be surprised if the chassis isn't an amalgam of various such sources, suitably tweaked, of course. Separate track links are provided.

The bridge unit is very impressive and, again, it assembles from a lot of cast polyurethane resin parts. However, the instructions are a little sketchy in more ways than one, by giving only barely adequate written and illustrative descriptions. Such complexity of construction deserves better laid out and detailed instruction diagrams and notes, because not everyone who buys this model will know the configuration of this quite rare vehicle.

Lots of experimenting and dry runs to check fit of parts will be necessary and is the only answer. Modellers familiar with their 'panzer fours' will not have any problems with the chassis, although thankfully the kit makers seem not to assume this and have provided plenty of drawings showing where things locate on the hull. But you'll still be scratching your head here and there when locating some of the smaller fittings

You certainly won't put this one together in an evening. It needs a lot of care and attention, otherwise you'll find separating super-glued joins with debonder is not always successful and definitely very smelly and messy - and small parts have been known to 'disappear!'

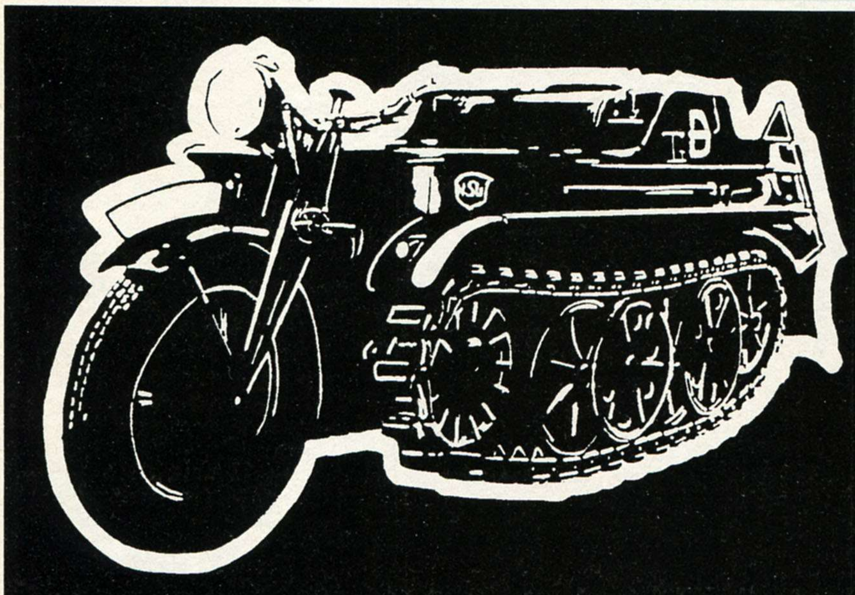
It is a kit the true German armour modeller and other such aficionados will find very difficult to resist. It's not cheap, but it is a complete production from a labour intensive industry which puts the retail price around the 'competitive' mark.

Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ stock the kit for UK customers. R&J Enterprises are the US agents, Azimut the French and Baumann in Japan.

K.M.J.

Price £72.50

On Track Model Co., P.O. Box No.65050, Tesung Kwan O Post Office, Kowloon, Hong Kong.



PRECISION models

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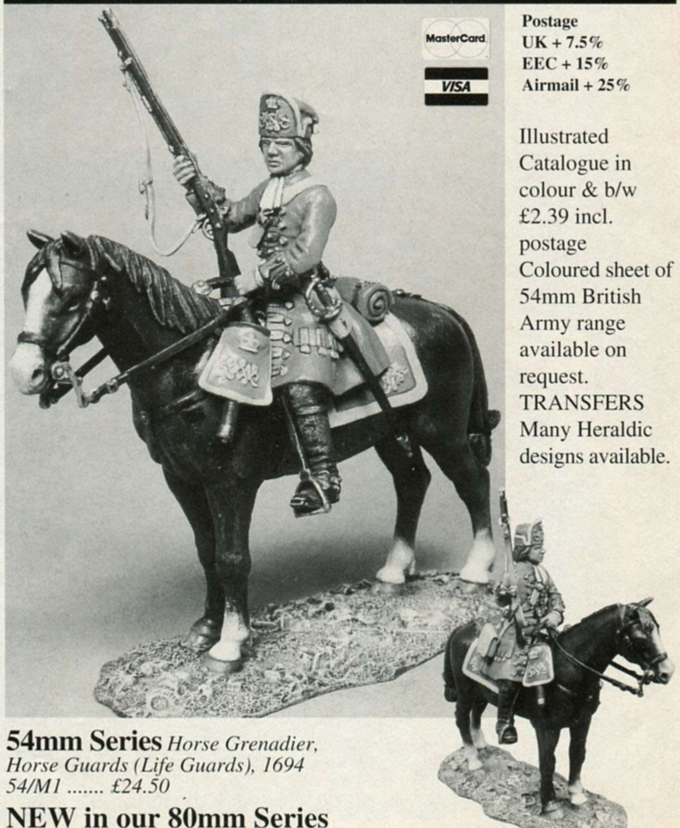

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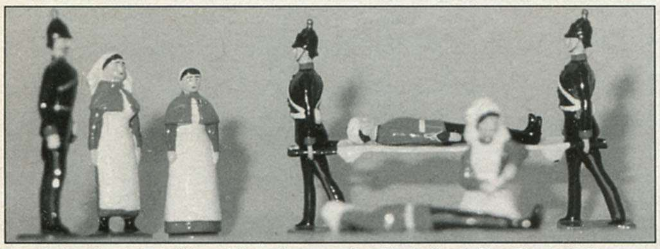

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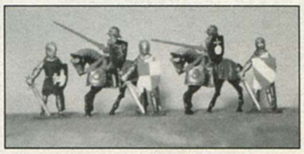

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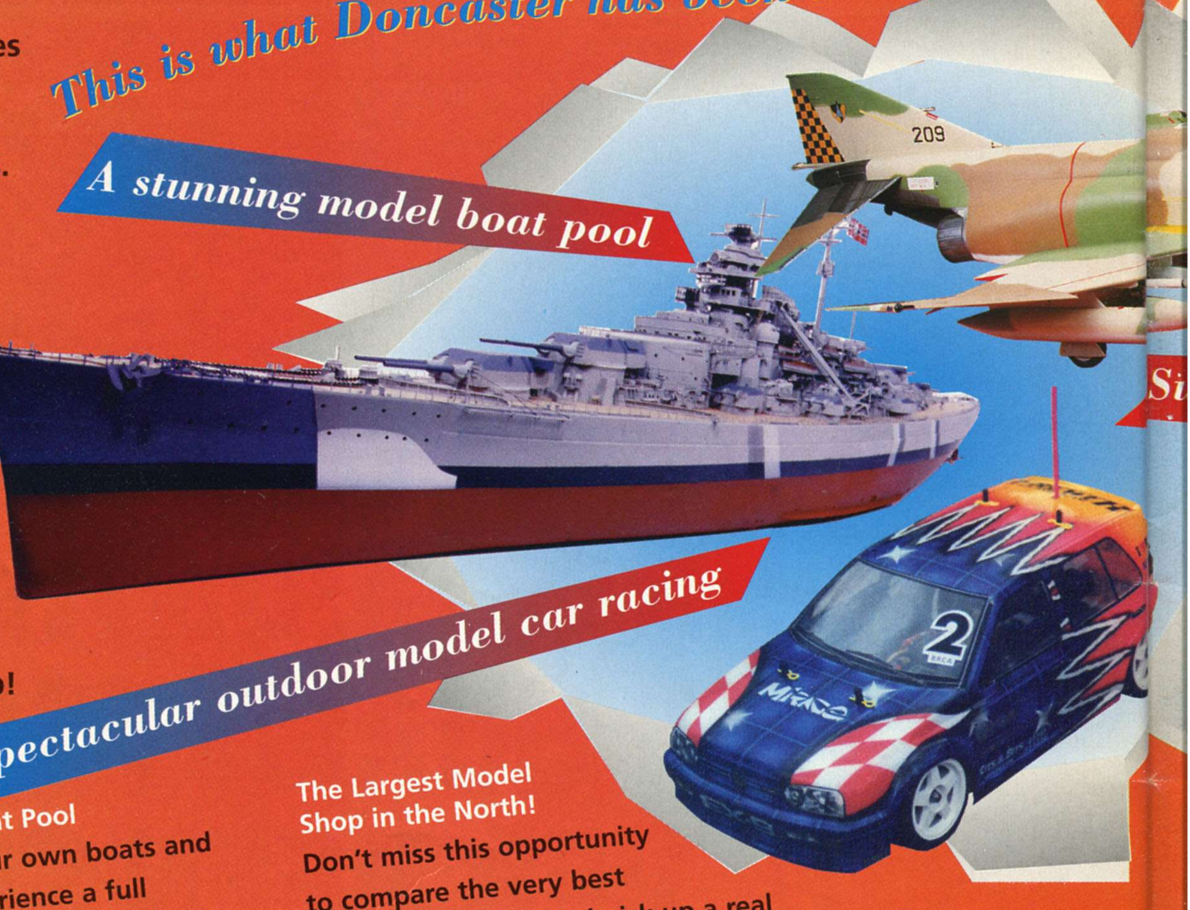

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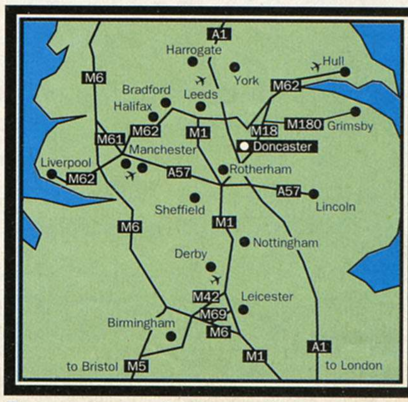

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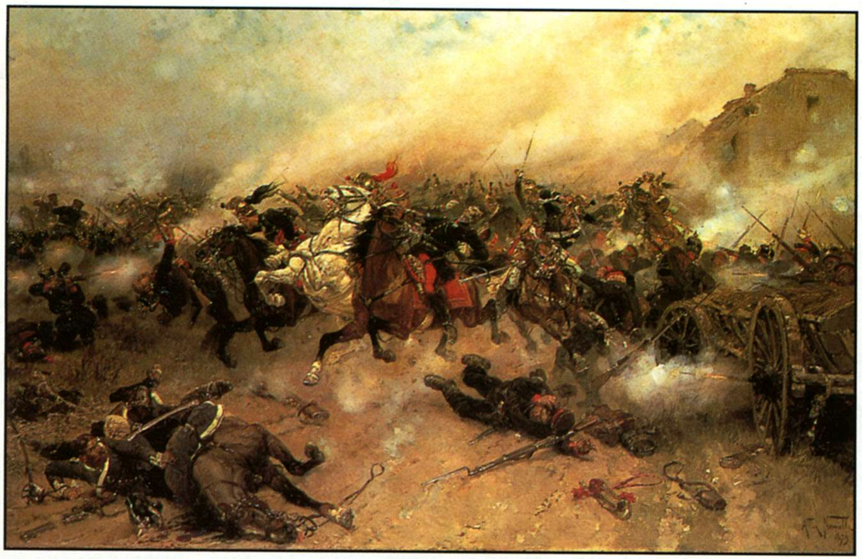

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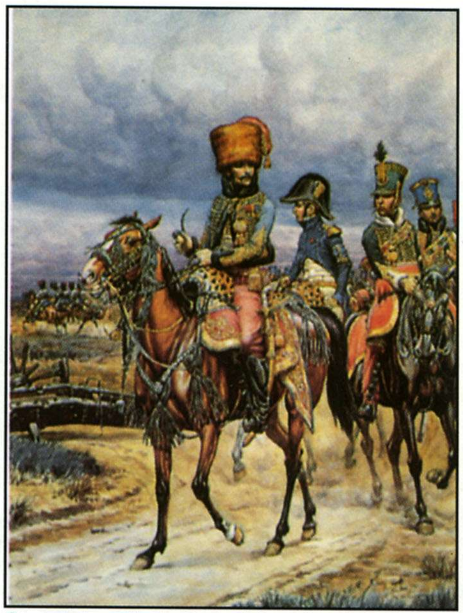

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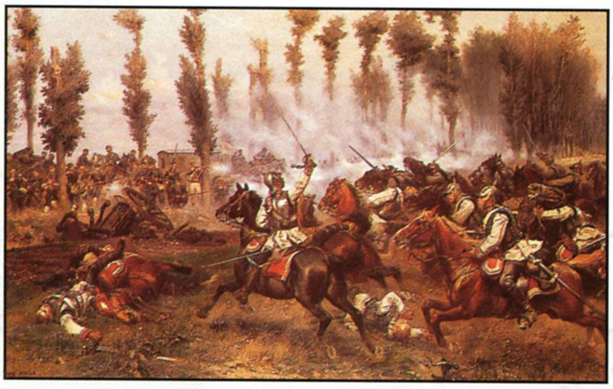

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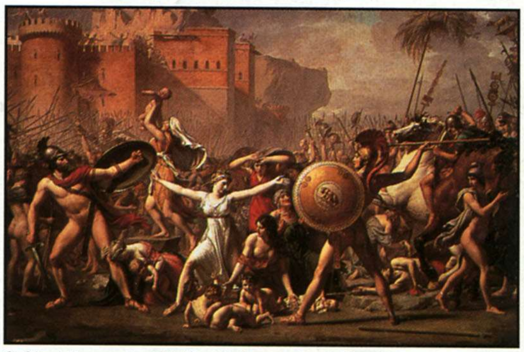

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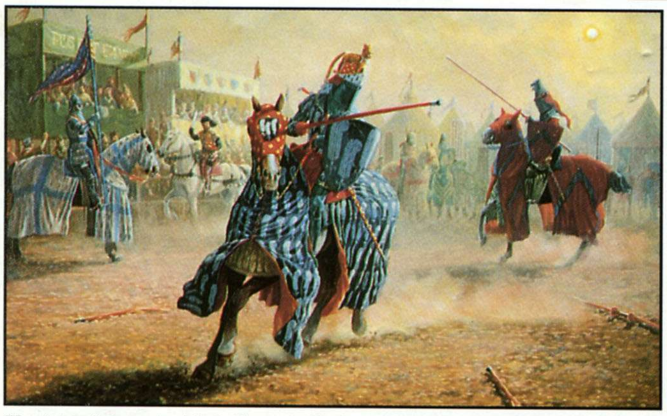

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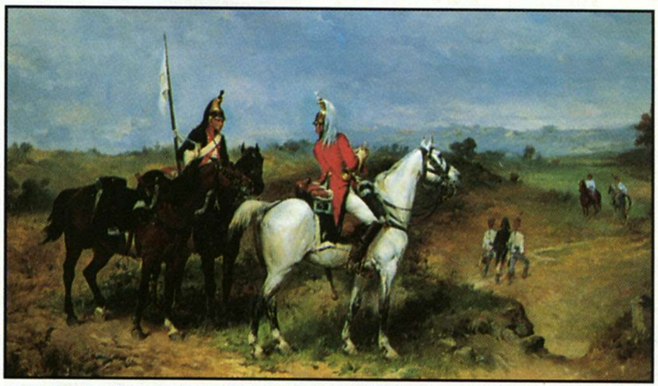

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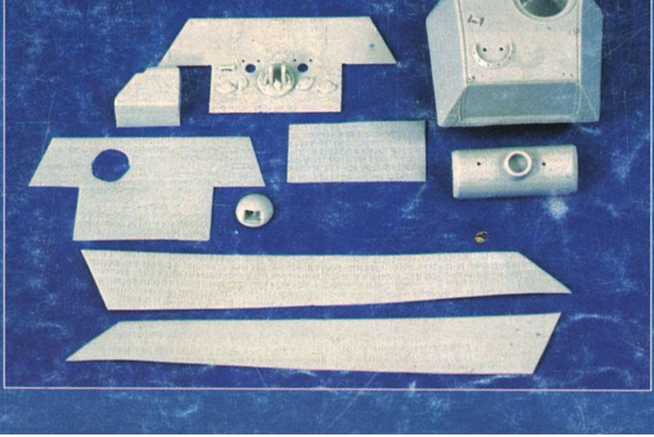

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